

On the recommendation of the committee, the following resolution was adopted by the Conference :—

“ The Conference approves the report of the Committee on Oversea Settlement. The Conference is of opinion that the problem of the better distribution of the white population of the British Commonwealth continues to be a question of paramount importance for the British Commonwealth as a whole. Its successful solution depends upon the availability of adequate markets for the products of the Empire and of sufficient capital for the development of its resources. The Conference recognizes that the economic difficulties of the present time are such as to render impracticable any considerable flow of migrants from the United Kingdom to the Dominions, but it has every confidence in the future and recommends that the problem of oversea settlement should continue to receive the most careful consideration, and that the Governments concerned should adopt such measures as may be found best calculated to secure the object in view as and when economic conditions permit.”

XVIII. FORESTRY.

Another committee of the Conference was set up, under the chairmanship of Sir Padamji P. Ginwala, of the Indian delegation, to report upon forestry questions. This committee laid stress on the desirability of improving the existing facilities for scientific forestry instruction and research. In the opinion of the committee, the work of this character carried out by the Imperial Forestry Institute, Oxford, had been seriously hampered by the want of sufficient funds for staff and equipment, and should now be placed on a more permanent basis. To enable the Institute to function effectively an assured income of £19,000 per annum is required, this estimate including a sum of £2,500 for the establishment of a Bureau of Information.

The committee gave consideration to reports on forestry made by the Forest Services of the Empire, and noted the general improvement which has taken place in forest management and technique. Considerable progress in afforestation has been made in the United Kingdom, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, the Irish Free State, and Southern Rhodesia. An important survey of forest resources has been begun in Canada, progress in laying down forest policy is being made in Australia, the extensive timbered area of Labrador is now included in Newfoundland, and in India the Dehra Dun Research Institute has been completed.

Measures to be taken for the prevention of loss by soil erosion caused by forest-clearance and the preservation of indigenous forest fauna were further subjects to which the committee gave consideration.

Much importance was attached to the good beginning which had been made in various parts of the Empire in forest-products research, and it was decided that special emphasis should be laid upon this branch of forestry-work at the next Empire Forestry Conference, to be held in the Union of South Africa in 1933.

On the recommendation of the committee, the Conference adopted the following resolution :—

“ The Conference, having in view the vital importance of forestry both directly and indirectly to the well-being of the British Commonwealth,—

“ (a) Urges all the Governments concerned to develop such forest policies as will bring their forests under effective management :

“ (b) Takes favourable note of the good beginning which has been made in various parts of the Commonwealth in forest-products research, and of the steps which are being taken by the Empire Marketing Board and the Forest Products Research Laboratory at Princes Risborough to promote the utilization of Empire timbers ; and expresses the opinion that the scope of forest research should be widened to include the utilization of exotic as well as indigenous timbers :

“ (c) Recognizes the value of the Imperial Forestry Institute and the desirability of attaching to it a bureau for the collection and dissemination of information, and, further, recommends the several Governments to give these bodies their fullest support :