

*South Africa (including the Union and Swaziland).*—The prospects of a world shortage of cotton, and consequent high prices, caused farmers in South Africa to consider seriously the possibilities of the development of the crop after the War, and early in 1923 the Corporation sent out Mr. G. F. Keatinge, C.I.E., to obtain for them first-hand information on the possibilities of this area. His report excited considerable interest, and the Corporation offered to the Union Government to appoint a small staff to work in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture. This offer was discussed with General Smuts, the then Premier, and was accepted by him on behalf of the Union Government at an interview in October, 1923.

Early in 1924 the Corporation were fortunate enough to secure the services of Mr. S. Milligan, who was then Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India, and of Mr. F. R. Parnell, then Economic Botanist to the Madras Government. Mr. Milligan arrived in South Africa in May, 1924, and immediately made a tour of the Union and Swaziland; Mr. Parnell reached the country a few months later. They found that the interest in cotton was widespread, and that a considerable area had been planted, but they reported that the seed in general use was very mixed. The seed supply presented two distinct problems; firstly the production of an early maturing variety for the middle veld, and secondly a jassid-resistant strain for the lower veld. The former problem was already being tackled by the Government Botanist at Rustenburg, and it was decided, therefore, that the Corporation should be responsible for the seed supply of the low veld, and that a station under Mr. Parnell should be established at Barberton.

In 1925 two new experiment stations were established by the Corporation, one on the Candover Estates in Natal, under the charge of Mr. Parsons, an ex-student, and the other at Bremersdorp in Swaziland, under Mr. R. C. Wood, who was transferred from Tanganyika, where he had been the Corporation's senior officer. At these stations experiments in fertilizers, spacings, times of thinning, and times of planting are being carried out, and Mr. Parnell's selections from Barberton are being tested.

The number of bales exported from South Africa rose from 3,000 in 1920-21 to 20,000 in 1925-26. But the three seasons 1924-25, 1925-26, and 1926-27, have all been unfavourable; the first was very wet, and the other two abnormally dry. These bad seasons have militated very seriously against the success of the experiment stations. Plantings have had to be rushed, and later plantings have given no yield. The fact that earlier plantings have survived has,