

The Agricultural Department is quite first class, and, as already mentioned, Mr. Faulkner, the Director, and every member of it have given the Corporation all possible help, and steady, though perhaps not sensational, progress may be expected.

The British West Indies.—In these islands cotton has been grown for over twenty years, and during that time they have produced an average of nearly 6,000 bales a year of the best cotton in the world. Owing, however, to decreased purchasing power and changing fashions, it has not been easy to dispose of even this quantity, and stocks have accumulated. Both reduction of acreage and a change in the variety grown have been under consideration; but both the growers and the trade are loath to diminish the potentialities of this crop, which might again become of great importance and value to both.

In 1922 the Corporation took over the responsibility for continuing the cotton genetic research work in St. Vincent, which had been inaugurated by Dr. Harland, and appointed Mr. L. H. Burd, paying his salary and a proportion of the expenses of the experiment station. This work was only discontinued in 1925, when the Corporation established their Cotton Research Station in Trinidad.

OTHER COTTON FIELDS.

Amongst the other potential cotton-growing areas are Cyprus, Iraq, Kenya, Fiji, and Northern Rhodesia.

Cyprus.—The production of Cyprus in 1920-21 was 2,547 bales; this had increased to over 7,000 bales in 1926-27. The Corporation at the Government's request obtained for them a quantity of Triumph seed, which has done well, and a growing interest in the crop has led to the satisfactory increase in the last year for which figures are available. Whether Cyprus will become a relatively important cotton-growing area appears to depend on whether a sufficient amount of water can be found for extending the area under irrigation. Lack of information on this point has hitherto deterred the Corporation from agreeing to the Government's request for the services of an expert in cotton-growing to assist in establishing a cotton experiment station.

Iraq.—This mandated territory produced 60 bales of good cotton in 1921 and 3,500 bales in 1926. The principal obstacle to the development of the industry is the lack of labour and some uncertainty in regard to the political outlook. If labour were plentiful and the Government were in a position to establish an adequate