

population. Whites not actually engaged in activities promoting the life of the native community should not be allowed to reside in the native settlements. The social status of the increasing number of half-breeds should be protected.

In the investigation of the existing system of education, which has been organised entirely on the model of the American school system, administration, staff, buildings, as well as the character and attainments of the scholars, were inspected. In the testing of the scholars, both intelligence and attainment tests were applied.

In the intelligence tests, 45.8 per cent of a school enrolment of 2,302 were tested, of whom 57.2 (651) were counted as of pure blood. Mental, physical and mechanical ability were tested. So far as possible, adaptations in the tests were made to meet the difficulties of environment and language. The results of the Stanford-Binet tests gave an intelligence quotient of:—Eskimo, mean 73.67, standard deviation 12.78; Aleut, mean 80.27, s.d. 13.94; Indian, mean 78.98, s.d. 14.94 (White = 100). This places the Eskimo at slightly above the American Indian and at about the same level as the southern

Negro; but in view of the absence of white contacts, it is probable that the Alaska figures represent a slightly higher level than those with which they are compared. It is interesting to note that whereas the intelligent quotient shows a tendency to increase with an increase in the amount of white blood in the subject, it decreases with an increase in the amount of school attendance.

In the physical tests, visual and auditory acuity show little difference from American white children.

In the detailed investigation of results obtained in the subjects of the curriculum, inferiority was shown in all classes of school, Eskimo, Aleut and Indian. This, however, must not be taken to argue inferior ability, but is rather the result of a thoroughly unsuitable curriculum. As an example in the calendar observances, on Arbor Day, the children of a treeless land are concerned with the planting and cultivation of trees and the implements used therein. As a whole, the curriculum is condemned and its modification recommended so that it may be no longer 'subject-centred' as at present, but may be concerned with 'activities fundamental to the economic and social life and well-being of the natives'.

Forest Products Research in Great Britain*

THE report of the Forest Products Research Board for 1934 has been recently issued. With the report is the annual report of the director of forest products research, 1934. The Research Board met twice during the year. At its first meeting, the Board undertook a general revision of the programme of research of the Laboratory, the effect aimed at being to secure a greater elasticity in the working of the various projects. The second meeting held at the Laboratory enabled the members of the Board to visit the various sections, and to study the progress being made. Two important questions which have engaged the attention of the Board have been connected with, first, the provision of means of closer contact between the work of the Laboratory and timber-using industries and growers in the north of England and Scotland; and secondly, the development of research into problems connected with wood-working. The report states that full advantage has been taken of the facilities offered by the Laboratory for investigating the properties and working qualities of timbers from various oversea units of the Empire.

The director's report deals with the experiments connected with the working or seasoning of more than fifty species of timber so as to remove the cause of badly fitting doors and windows, research in the utilisation of home-grown timbers, experimental work with the cricket-bat willow and research work into the death-watch beetle and other insect pests, and into dry rot and other fungal attack. The report alludes to two important problems which are facing, and will face the new afforestation work in Great Britain. These are connected with, (1) the effects of pruning trees on the quality of the timber, and (2) the utilisation of thinnings. The practical and economic possibility of producing higher grades of

timber by pruning standing trees is a question of the first importance to foresters and timber growers. The silvicultural aspects of this problem are being studied in the field by the Forestry Commission in a comprehensive working plan, and the Laboratory is examining the results of pruning. These latter cover the rate at which occlusion takes place and the extent of grain disturbance, and also the improvement in grade that may be expected in lumber from trees pruned at various ages and to different heights.

Arrangements have been made for the continuation of this work during 1935.

It is well understood by foresters that the best quality of timber is produced by keeping the young crop of trees dense so as to engender clean growth of the young stems, the branches being killed owing to the close overhead canopy. In planting work, this means a large number of plants to the acre. The pruning experiments have for their object the reduction of the initial planting costs through wider spacing of the young trees.

In connexion with the utilisation of thinnings, the report states that the manufacture of pulp and wall-board appears to offer one solution, and preliminary steps have been taken to determine whether industries can absorb the thinnings. In collaboration with an important pulp-grinding firm, and with timber-growing bodies, an investigation is being made into the suitability for pulping of home-grown timber from different localities and grown under different conditions. This project is also being continued.

The Forestry Commission has now planted some 250,000 acres of young woods. The formidable task of commencing the thinnings of the older age classes in this large area is beginning to loom on the horizon as a problem of increasing importance. The problem is a two-headed one, consisting of the correct silvicultural operation to be carried out in the woods, and the subsequent disposal of the material taken out, at a satisfactory price.

* Department of Scientific and Industrial Research: Report of Forest Products Research Board, with the Report of the Director of Forest Products Research, for the Year 1934. Pp. vi+75+2 plates. (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1935.) 1s. 6d. net.