

in 1889. It was predicted that he would attain high academic distinction in England; but he preferred to migrate to Barbados, having been offered in 1890 the post of Island professor of chemistry there in succession to Prof. Harrison, who had been transferred to British Guiana. Harrison and J. R. Bovell had recently discovered (or, as some say, rediscovered) the fertility of sugar-cane seed and had successfully raised seedling canes. This work was continued by d'Albuquerque in collaboration with Bovell, and many new varieties of cane resistant to disease which was decimating the Bourbon cane were made available. In 1898 d'Albuquerque assumed the additional duties of consulting chemist to the newly formed Imperial Department of Agriculture. As chemist-in-charge he was responsible for carrying out (still in co-operation with Bovell) an extended programme of experiments and research. Many published reports recording the results remain as a monument to his and his fellow-worker's industry, which exercised a profound influence on cane cultivation throughout the sugar-producing world and laid the foundations on which the present West Indian Cane Breeding Station in Barbados was built.

Between 1899 and 1909, d'Albuquerque acted as Imperial commissioner on numerous occasions. In 1910 Barbados seceded from the Imperial Department. A separate Department of Agriculture for the Colony was constituted with Bovell as head, and, after his retirement in 1925, d'Albuquerque was appointed director of science and agriculture. In that capacity he attended the Imperial Agricultural Conference in London in 1927. His activities were many. Besides performing the onerous duties of director, he remained in charge of science teaching

at Harrison College, the Lodge, and Combermere School, and several generations of boys profited greatly from his teaching. He also reorganized the Government analytical laboratory, which was concerned not only with foods, drugs, and public health, but also commercial sugar analysis, a work which increased enormously as, thanks to his precepts, the planters became more scientifically minded. It is not too much to say that d'Albuquerque succeeded in revolutionizing the ideas of the planting community on the place and value of scientific research in tropical agriculture.

When in 1928 d'Albuquerque retired on account of failing health, Barbados was the poorer by the loss of a prominent scientific worker and a genial resident, who for nigh on forty years had identified himself with the social and official activities of the island which he had made his home.

d'Albuquerque was a keen Freemason. He was District Grand Master of the Barbados Lodge from 1906 until 1930 and a founder of the Caribbean Lodge. He was married in 1891 to Miss Beatrice Alice Langley, who with a son (a barrister-at-law) and a daughter survive him. ALGERNON ASPINALL.

We regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Elsie C. Parsons, president of the American Anthropological Association, on December 19, aged sixty-six.

Prof. Hans Schinz, formerly professor of botany in the University of Zurich, aged eighty-three.

Prof. Virgilio Tedeschi, professor of biological physics in the National University of La Plata.

NEWS and VIEWS

Central Planning Authority

MR. ARTHUR GREENWOOD, Minister without Portfolio, announced in the House of Commons on February 11 that a Central Planning Authority is to be set up. Duties in connexion with town and country planning at present exercised by the Minister of Health will be transferred to the Minister of Works and Buildings, whose title will be changed to "Minister of Works and Planning". The newly styled Ministry will guide local authorities and will exercise the powers to be conferred by legislation arising out of the acceptance by the Government of the first report of the Uthwatt Committee, laying down the general principles to which planning must conform. The Secretary of State for Scotland will exercise corresponding powers in Scotland. The two ministers concerned will be assisted by committees of senior officials of the Departments on which their activities will impinge in order to secure consistent action throughout the country. By this means the Government hopes to secure the most appropriate development and use of the country, taking into consideration the recommendations of the report of the Royal Commission on the Distribution of the Industrial Population, and also the need for avoiding measures which would interfere with the over-riding aim of raising the standard of living to the highest possible level.

Lord Reith, who now becomes Minister of Works and Planning, made a similar statement in the House of Lords, amplifying it with an account of

steps which are already being taken. The decision now announced, he said, implements the Uthwatt Committee's assumption of the early establishment of a central planning authority. Meanwhile, that Committee is now making an objective analysis of the subject of the payment of compensation and recovery of betterment in respect of public control of the use of land. Lord Reith's consultative panel has also been active. The Director General of the Ordnance Survey, Dr. Dudley Stamp and Prof. Eva Taylor are preparing maps for planning, showing physical features, land uses, movements of population, industry and communications. Lord Justice Scott's committee considering conditions which should govern constructional developments in rural areas is at work, as is also the inter-departmental committee co-ordinating the views of the various departments concerned. The latter has prepared a Bill to give effect to the recommendations of the Uthwatt Committee, and has considered long-term planning, the preservation of amenities, etc. His own group of special assistants has been responsible for the work of this committee and for the research which is the essential foundation of any scheme of national planning. In addition, the supply and standardization of materials have been under consideration, of necessity from the point of view of the war effort, but also with regard to the post-war implications. The central problem is to achieve the maximum benefit to the country of limited land resources available.