

that others could testify to Sir Andrew's work and achievements in many parts of the Empire, but only a member of the staff of the school could speak of his self-sacrificing devotion to the interests of that great institution, and of the deep affection in which he was held by every one of them.

COMMITTEE ON CONSTRUCTION COSTS

THE Secretary of Commerce, Roy D. Chapin, has announced the appointment of a construction committee composed of fourteen nationally known engineers, architects, builders and contractors, to encourage the use of new wood construction methods. Major H. S. Bennion, director of engineering, National Electric Light Association, New York City, is the chairman of the committee which will cooperate with governmental agencies in applying these new construction systems to American conditions.

During and since the war engineers in various parts of the world have developed entirely new principles of wood construction, employing metal or wood connectors for the strengthening of joints. Through the use of these connectors the wood joints customarily used heretofore are increased in strength from three to six times. The National Committee on Wood Utilization for years has made a thorough study of the practical application of more than sixty different types of connectors and the Forest Products Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture has made hundreds of tests of the principal types of connectors as applied to American woods. Without these tests the application of these connectors to American conditions would have been difficult. The Bureau of Standards has made the necessary metallographic tests of the metal used. In this manner the governmental agencies chiefly concerned have joined hands and are cooperating with leading national organizations of engineers, architects and builders, in applying the system to American conditions. The European experience during and since the war has demonstrated their practicability.

In addition to Major Bennion, the members of the National Committee on Wood Utilization appointed on the wood construction committee are:

Wallace Ashby, Washington, D. C., representing the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

W. H. Booth, Philadelphia, representing the American Petroleum Institute.

Ralph Budd, Chicago, representing the American Railway Association.

Clement E. Chase, Philadelphia, representing the American Society of Civil Engineers.

William F. Chew, Baltimore, representing the National Association of Builders Exchanges.

A. S. Downey, Seattle, representing the Associated General Contractors of America.

Captain Ralph H. Higgins, airport consulting engineer, East Orange, New Jersey.

R. R. Horner, Clarksburg, West Virginia, representing the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers.

B. L. Knowles, Worcester, Massachusetts, representing the Associated General Contractors of America.

Henry G. Perring, Baltimore, representing the American Engineering Council.

Colonel D. H. Sawyer, director, Federal Employment Stabilization Board, U. S. Department of Commerce.

Searcy B. Slack, Atlanta, representing the American Association of State Highway Officials.

F. Leo Smith, Washington, D. C., representing the American Institute of Architects.

CARIBBEAN BOTANICAL SURVEY

G. PROCTOR COOPER, 3d, formerly on the staff of the Yale School of Forestry and at present associated with the New York Botanical Garden as collaborator, left New York the first week in November for the West Indies and the Caribbean Coast of South America to continue his botanical and forestry studies. The expedition has been organized jointly by Mr. and Mrs. Cooper and they will use their schooner yacht *White Cloud* as their base of operations during the entire eight months in the field.

The personnel of the party, besides Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, consists of Mr. William C. Shepard, of New Haven, a retired forester from Cornell and Yale; Mr. Charles Edward Hill, of Brookline, Massachusetts; Mr. T. Windsor Ford, of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and Mr. Norman E. Hawes, a recent Yale Forestry School graduate, who will collect insects and spiders for museum and study purposes.

The Island of Dominica of the British Leeward group has been chosen as the first region for intensive study because of the dense virgin forest areas covering most of this small but mountainous island. The hot mineral springs at various parts of the interior will be visited and the flora in the immediate vicinity compared with that on other parts of the island to determine what effect, if any, the warm waters have on the types of vegetation. The floras of various elevations, from sea level to the mountain peaks at 4,500 feet, will be compared and, if possible, the transition zones will be noted so as to determine those species which are adapted to all elevations and those which are confined to any one particular level or site class.

The floras of the islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe will be carefully studied for comparative purposes. Various small islands in the vicinity and throughout the Leeward group will also be visited for observation. The next region for intensive operation will probably be British Guiana. The schooner will be left at Georgetown and Mr. Cooper and Mr.