

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1918.

A meeting of the Club was held this evening, the President, Dr Mahood, in the chair.

Provost Walker, Banff; Mr James Kissock, procurator-fiscal, Banff, and Mr Peter Leslie, Lecturer on Forestry, Aberdeen, were admitted members of the Club.

Tree Measurements.

Major Grant read a paper by Mr Lawrence Watt, Clydebank, on some trees in Duff House grounds, a continuation of a former paper on the same subject. The date of the most recent inspection was July 1918. The present paper was in two sections. The first was as follows—

A few additional records of the trees that are growing in and around the policies of Duff House—

During the past fifty years I can see little difference on the trees that are growing on the sloping ground between the Aberdeen road and the river from the Bridge to Gellymill. Turning, however, off the main road and walking along the island walk towards Kirkside, the trees there begin to attract attention. Coming near the island one is surprised to see such a number of large, fine trees of various kinds so near the sea. At present when timber is so scarce it is surprising that such a quantity of useful wood is not yet utilised. The island walk at one time was a fine road, when the old Earl of Fife could start from Duff House and drive for seven miles through his policies. That is all changed now. Duff House itself has been gifted to the communities of Banff and Macduff. The arches over the public roads called the Dry Brigs are all pulled down, giving way to modern requirements, so that there is now no continuous road through the policies. Large trees are not now required as ornaments to a road that

is only used for light carting to and from the farms. There was a great talk last year about the trees in the Fir Wood of Banff, but the most of them would be only branches to the giants that fringe the roadway on the island walk. From their close proximity to the river they could be floated down to the Greenbanks, where the ground is hard, and a crane could easily be used to lift them for transportation either by road or rail.

In going over the various trees in the district the Wych or Mountain Elm (*Ulmus montana* L.) is the most prominent. They are everywhere and quite a number of them are large trees; the ground and climate appear to suit them. Then there are the Beeches. *Fagus sylvatica* L. is always an attractive tree. A number of them attain a fair size with a fine bole, which makes good solid wood. There are a number of Oaks, mostly *Quercus Robur* L., though of no special size compared with the size they attain in other districts. There are other oak trees, but the leaves were too far up for us to determine the species. The Plane or Sycamore (*Acer Pseudo-platanus* L.). There are quite a number of them in the district, but they have very little appearance compared with those at Inverary Castle, where they are one of the principal attractions. Near the Bridge of Alvah we saw a few small trees of *Acer Campestre* L., the Common Maple. This differs from the Sycamore by having erect flowers; it does not flower readily. Then we have the Scotch Fir (*Pinus Sylvestris*, L.) in Montcoffer woods, fine healthy trees. The Silver Fir (*Abies pectinata*, L.), and the *Picea sitchensis*, Menzies Pine, are not considered native though they are large and handsome trees. The following are the measurements of a number of the most prominent, taken along with Mr Yeats and Mr Craib—

All growing on the Island Walk.

	Date.	Girth at			Bole.
		Ft.	in.	Ft.	in.
Fraxinus excelsior, L. The Ash.					
One measured		8	6½	5	0
One do.	in July 1917	8	4	10	6
Fagus sylvatica, L. The Beech.					
One measured		12	10½	11	0
One do.		11	0	13	0
One do.		10	5	12	0
One do.		9	8	9	6
Aesculus hippocastanea, Ld. The Horse Chestnut.					
One measured		9	0	10	0
Ulmus glabra, Huds. Scotch Wych or Mountain Elm.					
One measured		11	3	10	6
One do.		11	1½	10	0
One do.		10	3½	11	0
Abies pectinata, L. The Silver Fir.					
One measured		11	6	11	0
One do.		10	9	11	0
One do.		9	8½	10	6
Pinus sylvestris, L. The Scotch Fir.					
One measured in Montcoffer Wood		7	7	12	0
One do.		6	11	12	0
One do.		6	3	12	0

Trees measured in Low Walk in the Grounds near Bridge of Alvah.		Date.	Girth at		Bole.			
			Ft.	in.	Ft.	in.	Ft.	in.
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , L. The Beech.	One measured on Low Walk	in July 1917.	15	9	3	0	10	0
One do.	do.	"	15	6	4	0	11	0
One do.	do.	"	16	10	4	0	10	0
But it has not a solid bole.								
<i>Acer pseudo-platanus</i> , L. Sycamore.	One measured near The Rack	"	9	9	4	0	10	0
<i>Ulmus glabra</i> , L. The Elm.	One measured on Low Walk	"	13	8	3	0	10	0
One do.	do.	"	11	3	3	0	9	6
<i>Abies pectinata</i> , L. Silver Fir.	One measured near the Bridge	"	12	0	3	0	11	0
One do.	do.	"	11	9	3	0	12	0
<i>Betula verrucosa</i> , Ehrh. The Birch.	One measured on Low Walk	"	4	0	3	0	9	0
<i>Quercus Robur</i> . The Oak.	One measured on Low Walk	"	8	9	4	0	10	6

The second section of the paper was as follows:—

A few additional records of the trees growing within the policies of Duff House—

The ground we went over was along the main walk from the old Barnyards past the House, then along the main walk to the Pinetum. We measured a number of the trees between that and the Low Walk. Then we measured those on the Lower Walk to the Silver Fir, a short distance past the Ferry to Kirkside. In going over the grounds we came across a number of fairly good trees that we had not noted on our previous visit. The principal trees, no doubt, are the Pines. There are a few good Beech and Elm trees, and quite a number of others that we have noted on our list.

Among the Pines, near the entrance in the enclosed part of the policies, is a small tree of *Pinus cembra*, L. A curious looking pine, it is a native of the Alps, Siberia, and Tartary. And near it is an *Abies nobilis*, Noble's Silver Fir, but not nearly so large as those in the Pinetum, though the cones on it were as good. One could scarcely keep one's eyes off these cones. They were in clusters near the top of the trees, and being so large are easily seen. They grow upright, but fall in pieces on the tree; they do not come down entire like the cones of other fir trees we are accustomed to see. The leaves too have a bluish colour. They are striking looking trees. Another pine in the Pinetum is *Pinus montana* (or *P. pumilis*), the creeping pine; it grows along and quite close to the ground; it covers large tracts of the Alps and Carpathians, and the chamois hunter uses it as a screen for cover when hunting those fleet-footed animals. It would take a special paper to describe all the varieties of pines there. We made all, or nearly all, the girth measurements at four feet from the foot of the trees, taking into

account the sloping ground that a number of them are growing on. We thought that four feet gave the most correct measurement. A few that we measured at five feet in 1915, we found had increased their girth from two to two and a half inches.

Of the two Araucarias in the Pinetum, one increased in girth two inches, the other two and a half inches. In May of this year in the Erskine policies, on the Clyde side, we measured two Cedars of Lebanon, two *Cedrus deodara*, and two Araucarias that we measured in May of 1915, and the whole six trees had increased in girth two and a half inches. It surprised us to find that three different species of trees showed the same increase of growth. Taking into account the open space they are growing in, compared with those growing in the Pinetum, it proves that the trees growing there are not far behind in their annual increase of girth from those growing in the Clyde area, and while the majority of the trees growing in the policies are not as large as those in the south, still the largest elm tree in Scotland grows in Banffshire, in Dufftown, at Balvenie House, the home of Major Grant.

		Bole			
		Ft.	in.	Ft.	Ft.
Ash at Balvenie	Augt. 1918	11	10	4	10

At this last visit to the trees we were accompanied by our esteemed President, Dr Mahood, Major Grant, Mr W. Craib, and Mr Yeats.

	Date.	Girth at		Bole.	Height.	Sprd.	In-crease.
		Ft. in.	Ft.				
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , L. The Ash.	July 1918	11 10½	4	10	—	—	—
One on Main Walk at Barnyards	"	11 11½	4	9	—	—	—
One do.	"	9 5	4	9	—	—	—
One do.	"	8 10	4	8	—	—	—
One at Old Bridge near Ferry	"	9 2	4	10	—	—	—
One on Low Walk	"	7 9	4	12	—	—	—
One do.	"						
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , L. The Beech.	"	10 0½	4	—	—	—	—
One on Low Walk	"	12 0	4	10	—	63	—
One on Low Walk near the River	"	11 0	4	9	—	—	—
One on Low Walk	"	9 0	4	10	—	—	—
One on Low Walk on the right	"						[off.
One on Low Walk after passing the	"	12 0	4	5	When it branches		
Holly tree	"	12 3	4	9	—	—	—
One on Low Walk	"	16 0	4	6	—	—	—
One on Low Walk on the left	"						
It has large ruts; not a solid bole.							
One just opposite the Silver Fir on Low	"	13 9	4	—	—	—	—
Walk							
<i>Ulmus glabra</i> , Huds. Scotch Wych or Moun-							
tain Elm.							
One near Duff House	"	10 0½	5	—	—	—	—
One at the Old Bridge	"	10 5	3	—	—	—	—
One on Low Walk	"	12 3	4	6	—	—	—
One on Low Walk left side	"	10 4	4	6	—	—	[off.
One do.	"	13 7½	2	—	When it branches		
<i>Abies Menziesii</i> , London. Menzies Pine or							
the Warded Pine.							
One in the Pinetum	"	16 1½	4	—	—	73	—
One do.	"	15 1	4	—	—	71	—
One do.	"	14 1	4	—	—	80	—
One do.	"	15 0	4	—	—	—	—
<i>Abies Nobilis</i> , Lindley. Noble's Silver Fir.							
One in the Pinetum	"	10 5	4	—	—	—	—
One do.	"	8 6½	4	—	—	—	—
One do.	"	7 6	4	—	—	—	—
We measured them in July 1915 at 5 ft.							
<i>Abies pectinata</i> , L. The Silver Fir.							
One on Low Walk near Ferry to Kirk-							
side, upper tree	"	13 0	4	30	—	—	—
One do. lower tree	"	10 11½	4	—	—	—	—
One on Low Walk past the Ferry	"	12 10	4	15	—	—	—
One do. on top side	"	10 3	4	20	—	—	—
One do. on left side	"	11 0	4	20	—	—	—
One do. do.	"	9 3	4	10	—	—	—
One do. do.	"	9 5	4	8	—	—	—
<i>Araucaria imbricata</i> , R. and P. Monkey's							
Puzzle.							
One in the Pinetum	July 1915	4 7½	5	—	—	—	2 ins.
Measured in	July 1918	4 5½	5	—	—	—	—
One in the Pinetum	July 1915	4 7½	5	—	—	—	2½ ins.
Measured in	July 1918	4 5	5	—	—	—	—
The <i>Auracarias</i> measured	July 1918	4 11½	4	—	30	—	—

	Date.	Girth at Bole. Height. Sprd. In.				
		Ft. in	Ft.	Ft.	Ft.	Ft.
<i>Quercus Robur.</i> The Oak.						
Three oaks near together in the Lower Walk.						
One measured	July 1918	10 7	4	15	—	—
One do.		10 2½	4	12	—	—
One do.		7 0	4	10	—	—
One on Low Walk		9 11	4	25	—	—
One on Lower Walk, left side		8 0	4	—	—	—
<i>Acer pseudo-platanus</i> , L. Great Maple or Sycamore.						
One opposite Duff House to the right		11 0½	5	—	—	—
One do.		10 4½	4	—	—	—
Bole very short, then branches off.						
One on Lower Walk on left						
<i>Salix Alba</i> , L. White Willow.						
The one we measured in July 1915 is now blown down.		8 2	4	25	—	—
<i>Populus nigra</i> , L. Poplar.						
Two on Main Walk opposite the Barnyards.						
One measured						
One do.		10 0	4	30	—	—
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> , L. Scotch Fir.		9 9	4	30	—	—
On Low Walk past the Boat to Kirkside		10 0	4	10	—	—
<i>Larix europæa</i> . The Larch.						
One on Low Walk		8 10	4	10	—	—