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APPOINTMENT OF LANDSCAPE CONSULTANT

THE announcement that the Commission have appointed Miss SYLVIA CROWE as their landscape consultant has attracted a great deal of interest and approbation. With a planting programme of 450,000 acres in the ensuing decade, and the development of public access to the existing forest estate, Miss Crowe's advice will be of great value. Few, if any, people have greater qualifications for her task, for she is a Past President of the Institute of Landscape Architects and is Vice President of the comparable international body. She has been landscape consultant to Harlow New Town since its inception and acts in a similar capacity to the Central Electricity Generating Board in respect of the nuclear power stations at Trawsfynydd and Wylfa, in North Wales.

The appointment of Miss Crowe follows hard on the news that Mr. PETER GARTHWAITE is to co-ordinate Commission policy and practices in regard to the control and management of wild life in our woods. He is not likely to be without support from the printed word in spreading his gospels; the "best-seller" leaflet on roe deer, the publication of which earned the Commission much prestige, is being re-issued in the near future, while an entirely new publication is Leaflet No.47, "Birds and Woodlands", by Dr. BRUCE CAMPBELL. This, to our mind, is one of the best of our productions, since for its size it is almost lavishly illustrated with really fine photographs. One can hardly read this leaflet without realising what good ammunition it is in refuting the still existent allegation that the formation of new conifer woodlands results in a paucity of bird life in the area of afforestation.

**THE ANNUAL REPORT

THE Commissioners' 44th Annual Report has been published this month and to our mind is notable for the fact that it sets out a succinct declaration of policy. This is, of course, enlarged upon in the body of the Report and will no doubt be read by a number of readers. It is, however, worth setting down the summary for the benefit of those members of the staff who, when in contact with the public, would appreciate a simple reference note. Here it is:

1. To increase the production of wood as a raw material for industry by extending the area of their (the Commissioners') forests at a steady rate, in accordance with sound land use; and by making each forest as productive as possible.
2. Within the limits set by their other objectives to manage the forest estate as profitably as possible.
3. To provide employment in rural areas, especially those most affected by depopulation, and in so doing to maintain a skilled labour force.
4. To help in maintaining an efficient home timber trade.
5. To give due attention to the aesthetic and protective roles of the forest and to encourage open air recreation.
6. To foster industrial and social development ancillary to forestry.
7. To encourage the orderly development of private forestry and specifically to assist in creating conditions in which produce from private as well as Commission forests can be marketed to best advantage.

And now a potted version of the year's work so far as figures are concerned: The area planted was 55,596 acres, 6352 acres fewer than in the previous year (12,528 acres in England, 33,107 in Scotland, and 9,961 acres in Wales). Thinnings and clear fellings produced 22.2 million hoppus feet. Of this the timber trade cut 12.9 hoppus feet. Forest land acquired amounted to 16,852 acres. Working plan surveys were carried out on 175,000 acres. Well over 400 miles of forest roads were completed to final standard and 181 miles to the initial standard, giving a total mileage of 7,561, equal in distance to seven and a half times that from Land's End to John O'Groats. Private owners planted 29,800 acres under the various grant schemes and another 2,000 acres without grants. The area dedicated rose in the year by 26,702 acres to a total of 760,269 acres, and the number of schemes by 185 to 2,401.

**THE MONSTER -- ONCE AGAIN

YET again the Loch Ness Monster has been in the news. Our interest is revived because three of our workers claim to have seen it at one and the same time. It is reported that, for several minutes after there had been a rock blasting explosion in the locality, "Nessie" was spotted and kept under observation. First of all "a large black object" was seen to break surface and cruise towards the opposite shore. It turned suddenly and, moving at about 25 m.p.h., went parallel to the shore, causing a great wash. Then it lay still on the surface for some seconds before sinking slowly out of sight. It is said that a Stornaway fishing boat in the vicinity at the time recorded a strange object showing on the chart of the echo-sounder; this object was estimated to be at 40 fathoms and 30 ft. long.

**CHALLENGE

THE District Officer in charge of Cornwall, Mr. B. D. HUGHES, writes to say that there are 29 different conifers and 39 different hardwoods planted at Land's End Forest in rather more than 500 acres. The hardwoods include 24 varieties of eucalyptus.

Can any Forester report a greater diversity of species, other than at Bedgebury or similar places?

**THE CIVIL SERVICE CLUB

IT is now ten years ago since the Civil Service Club, just off Trafalgar Square, was opened. The initial cost of equipping the premises was met, at the wish of H. M. the Queen, from the balance of a fund collected earlier by the Home Civil Service and the Foreign Service on the occasion of Her Majesty's wedding. And, if we correctly recall the situation, there was an immediate and heavy demand for membership - so much so that some applicants were asked to try again later on.

It comes as something of a surprise, therefore, to learn that there has been a falling off in membership and that special efforts are needed to remedy the situation. Gladly, then, we lend our support and urge that anyone seeking first class club facilities should write without delay for an application form to the Club Secretary, Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London S.W.1.

All grades of Civil Servants are eligible for membership, by the way, and here is a reminder of the excellent facilities - all available for the modest subscription of 30s. a year for London members and 15s. for others. There are a restaurant, snack bar, tea lounge, lounge bar, and other rooms set aside for reading, writing, cards, television or just relaxation. There are also bedrooms - something which should be greatly appreciated by "country" members - (30s. a night single, and 50s. a night double, in each case including early morning tea and breakfast).

**"WAYSIDE AND WOODLAND TREES" EDWARD STEP REVISED

MOST foresters are aware of the value of EDWARD STEP'S "Wayside and Woodland Trees", yet despite this familiarity it is something of a shock to come across the date on which this admirable tome was first published - 1904.

It is of special interest that the work has recently been reprinted - for the 29th time! - and that our colleague HERBERT L. EDLIN has played the major role in undertaking the revision. Indeed, although he would modestly disclaim such an achievement, he has done much more than revise in that, without subordinating Step, he has skilfully improved upon the author. Certainly, to our way of thinking, it is no loss that Herbert Edlin's own clear style of writing has been brought to bear upon much of the original material or that one now senses something of his personality and enthusiasm amid the pages. All this really means is that Step's great reservoir of information remains to intrigue but is refurbished and modernised through the medium of some really effective writing.

The new issue, published again by Frederick Warne, may seem a little costly at 30s. but one has only to turn the pages to realise that here is an investment demanding but a small, once for all, premium. There are nearly 300 pages of text, 24 colour plates, 155 plates in black and white, 49 text figures and pictorial keys of leaves and buds to aid identification of 138 trees in 59 genera. One could scarcely ask more for one's money.

A little personal comment from Herbert Edlin is not out of place. He says: "I found it hard to better Step's scheme of arrangement, with its clearly linked contents. Many of the fine pictures taken by Henry Irving also stood the test of time, though for some subjects I had to turn to modern photographers. The selection of trees had to be recast, for many new ones have come into common use since Step made his choice 60 years ago."

It remains for us to say that of all the books that have come our way to date for inspection, this is assuredly high in our Top Ten.

**FORESTER RECEIVES HIS B.E.M.

IN the presence of many wellwishers, Forester R. BULTITUDE was decorated by the Lord Lieutenant of Devonshire, the Lord Roborough, with the British Empire Medal.

The citation related how Mr. Bultitude displayed outstanding qualities of public service during the Arctic conditions on Dartmoor in the winter of 1963-64. In addition to maintaining supplies of necessities for man and beast, he upheld morale in the entire neighbourhood by his personal example and leadership of local forestry squads. Although the villages were virtually isolated by deep snow, not only food but pay got through each week from Chalford, many miles away across the moor.

Lord Roborough was introduced by Mr. J. R. THOM, Director for England, who was supported by Mr. C. A. CONNELL, Conservator, South West England and his local officers; the party also included the forest workers from both Dartmoor and Fernworthy beats, all the tenants of Bellever village, together with residents of nearby Postbridge. The ceremony took place in one of the forest buildings at Bellever and, after the presentation, the party was joined by the Lord Lieutenant at tea at a nearby hostelry.

**COLLECTION OF ANECDOTES?

A useful suggestion comes from Mr. E. A. CROFTS Cartographical Draughtsman at York, who was formerly an Assistant Forester.

From time to time, he writes, amusing anecdotes about Commission personnel appear in The Slasher but there must be hundreds more which have not been printed and could be lost as time takes toll of the old hands. Therefore while Commission is still comparatively young I feel a start should be made by the Editor towards forming, and probably publishing, a collection of humorous and interesting stories concerning some of the people who have helped the Commission reach its present stature. Perhaps the Editor could prevail upon people like the Scottish Forester, now retired, to put in writing his account of how a tractor went to the bottom of a loch and how a highly placed Commission officer donned a Royal Navy diving suit in order to take a closer look.

Or perhaps some witness could relate how Timber Annie, a Commission Amazon, planted a Contorta pine one hot day, clad only in gum boots and planting bag. Then many knew one of our employees who was asked by a temperance society to reform and resign from the Commission, and tour the country in the cause of abstinence. The same gentleman built a motorcycle from what he found on a local dump and put it on the road without saddle, brakes, lights, licence or insurance. One night, on this contraption, he had a head-on collision with a car. It so happened that he had a permanent disability due to an early accident, involving his collarbone, and he delighted in telling, after the crash, how the motorist lamented that he had broken our friend's neck!

**MR. MORSE'S CHRYSANTHEMUMS

FOREMAN Carpenter in the Dean, Mr. F. MORSE is a remarkably successful grower of chrysanthemums. At Bream show he exhibited in eight classes, including those for incurves, reflex and decoratives, and won seven prizes of five firsts and two seconds, and also won the cup for the best nine incurves, as well as two silver medals. At

Coleford the following week he staged six exhibits and won three firsts and two seconds, together with silver and bronze medals for the best exhibits. He has now won six cups and four silver and four bronze medals in the 10 years he has been exhibiting.

****"HOW IT LOOKS TO ME"**

THE following lament comes from Head Forester R. J. JENNINGS, the Dean.

I lived in a wood where oak trees stood
And a squirrels hoard was made
Where a woodpecker drummed on a hollow limb
And the blue tits eggs were laid
But a traffic roundabout has displaced
The holly, hazel and yew
And a petrol pump in yellow and black
Now stands where orchids grew.

I walked through a field where villagers
Played in a green and spacious park
Where children tumbled in new mown hay
And the corncrake called after dark
But the grass is gone and the earth is black
Where young men kicked to the goal
And a bulldozer churns up rock and stone
In a search for opencast coal.

I bathed in a lake where the mayfly danced
And the grebe and moorhen nested
Where the sunlight shone on a willow branch
'neath a bank where a kingfisher rested
But the water now is foul and black
Polluted with oil and tar
And the reed beds littered with rusty cans
Paper bags and a derelict car.

I tramped on a moor where the heather bloomed
And the curlew and lapwing flew
And the honey bee sought the harebell flower
Where the cotton grass held the dew
A rifle range and an army camp
Now stand where sheep once fed
And painted notices say, "KEEP OUT"
Where the ramblers' footpath led.

I knew a countryside green and fair
Where men would relax from toil
And appreciate the fresh clean air
And enjoy the touch of the soil
But the leafy lanes and the spreading hedge
That sheltered the primrose and fern
Have gone with traditional country life
Past the point of no return.

****OBITUARY**

THE death has occurred of Mr. H. S. HANSON, one-time District Officer who was the Commission's entomologist. He joined the Commission in 1941 and retired in 1950, and his passing at the age of 77 occurred after some years of illness. Mr. Hanson lived in Lancashire.

****PERSONAL**

CONGRATULATIONS to Miss O. A. HARMAN of Alice Holt Lodge, who has been presented with a framed certificate to mark her completion of ten years' service to the H.S.A. Miss Harman is also the local representative of the Civil Service Benevolent Fund, for which she does much good work, particularly in enrolling new members.

****GIVE US YOUR TREASURES**

RECENTLY Director, Scotland, overhauled his office bookshelves and decided that certain classic forestry works would have a more useful life in the Commission's Library at Alice Holt. He wrote to the librarian and as a result some long-standing gaps in our holdings were filled, and duplicated books were directed to fresh addresses where they were, we hope, equally welcome. People in other offices, and even those who hoard books at home, may like to do the same thing. If you have anything to spare, please send a list to the Assistant Librarian, Mr. R. G. HARRIS, at Alice Holt.