



No. 187

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FAREWELL TO LORD RADNOR

and welcome his successor, LORD WALDEGRAVE.

AT the end of this month we say farewell to LORD RADNOR, our Chairman since 1952,

Lord Radnor, whose family estates include well over 1,000 acres of woodland, has given outstanding support to the cause which all of us serve in one degree or another, and has seen the forest industry grow impressively in stature. It must be of considerable gratification to him that, taking Commission and private woods together, there is probably a bigger area of forest under good management than at any other time in history. On the more personal side he has endeared himself to us and, indeed, to all with whom he has been associated, by his courtesy and understanding.

In a special message to readers of this newsletter Lord Radnor writes:

"It is with great regret that I sever my official connection with the Forestry Commission. I became a Commissioner in 1941 and succeeded Lord Robinson as Chairman 11 years ago. During that time I have made very many friends among all ranks in the Commission and I want to take this opportunity to say goodbye and thank you for the way in which you have made my task easy. During all my time, and particularly while I have been Chairman I have invariably had the most willing co-operation from everyone, and always a welcome wherever I went.

"The increased interest in the development of forestry and the growing appreciation of what has been done by the Commission is something of which I am very proud. It could never have come about had it not been for the way in which the staff have played their part not only in doing their work but also in their relations with the public.

"My successor, Lord Waldegrave, will I know get the same measure of co-operation and friendship extended to him, and I hope he will have as happy a time as Chairman as I have had.

"I shall hope to keep in touch with the progress of the Commission and be able from time to time to visit forests. Meanwhile I would wish you all the best of good fortune, and please accept my very sincere thanks for all you have done to make my path smooth."

Lord Waldegrave has been with us since August of last year, when he was appointed a Commissioner. Within a short while he became our Deputy Chairman. He is a keen forester and, at his home at Chewton Mendip, Somerset, he has some thriving woodlands.

Lord Waldegrave, as Lord Radnor, has a long record of public service. He was Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture from 1958 to 1962, and therefore our "spokesman" in the House of Lords. Among other appointments has been that of Chairman of the Somerset Agricultural Executive Committee and Liaison Officer to the Minister of Agriculture for Somerset, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire. He is a former Member of the Council of the Duchy of Cornwall and for five years to 1960 he was Vice-Lieutenant of Somerset.

**NEW COMMISSIONERS AND RE-APPOINTMENTS

It is appropriate here to record the appointment of the following new

Commissioners:

MR. FRED SELLERS, of Wellington, Salop, who is a timber merchant, in succession to Mr. E. BRYAN LATHAM, whose term of office expires on 31st July and who has ably represented the home timber trade on the Commission since 1957; Col. J. F. WILLIAMS-WYNNE of Towyn, Merioneth, landowner and woodland owner, and member of the North Wales Regional Advisory Committee, in succession to Mr. ARTHUR LLOYD OWEN OWEN whose resignation we announced recently; and Mr. GERALD PALMER, of Newbury, Berks., woodland owner and Chairman of the Regional Advisory Committee for South East England to occupy the vacancy as a Commissioner created by Lord Waldegrave's appointment as Chairman.

The following Commissioners are being re-appointed on the expiry of their terms at the end of the month:

SIR RICHARD COTTERELL, MAJOR D. C. BOWSER and Mr. E. GWYNFRYN DAVIES.

*A TIMELY INTRODUCTION

THERE are many circumstances in which one may meet a colleague for the first time. So far as Mr. R. RABAN WILLIAMS' introduction to Mr. GEORGE PRINGLE, a Research Forester, is concerned, both would have appreciated somewhat different conditions!

The story of their meeting goes like this. Mr. Raban Williams is Assistant Land Agent in the North West England Conservancy. While visiting Betws-y-Coed in North Wales last month with his five-years old son, the boy fell into the Llugwy River. Mr. Raban Williams plunged in and grabbed hold of the child and then, as both were being swept away by the current near Pont-y-Pair bridge, he managed to obtain a hand-hold on a boulder. As, desperately, Mr. Raban Williams clung to the rock and kept the boy's head above water, rescuers who scrambled over the boulders to the river found that a sheer drop separated them from the couple. Nevertheless they managed to grab the child as his father pushed him upwards.

Then came the next phase -- that of saving Mr. Raban Williams, whose situation was becoming more and more difficult as the waters swirled around him. Mr. George Pringle, however, always carries a length of rope in his vehicle and this he was able to pass to Mr. Raban Williams who, somehow or other, was able to loop it round his body so that his rescuers could haul him to safety.

It was only later, when he saw the jacket of a Forester's uniform hanging in the local office, that Mr. Raban Williams realised that one of the prime movers in his rescue was also a member of the Forestry Commission staff. Furthermore, to add to the coincidence, Mr. Raban Williams found that his small boy was being cared for in the home of Mrs. W. DAVIES, wife of a Forest Worker.

*M.P.s VISIT SCOTTISH FORESTS

MEMBERS of Parliament descended on some of our Scottish forests in force last month and during a three-day visit were shown a comprehensive cross-section of the work in the North Conservancy.

The party was 12 in number - half being Conservative and the others Labour. With two exceptions -- the EARL OF DALKEITH (Edinburgh, N.) and Mr. A. C. MANUEL (Central Ayrshire) all represented constituencies in England. The visitors were based on Inverness and all the forests seen are in the supply area of the £20 million pulpmill to be erected at Fort William. The programme included a visit to the Earl Cawdor's estate and to Newton Nursery in the East Conservancy, which covers 186 acres and where the annual production is of the order of 28 million seedlings and 10-15 million transplants.

The party was led by Major D. C. BOWSER, Commissioner and Chairman of the National Committee for Scotland, accompanied by Mr. J. A. DICKSON, Director, Scotland, and Mr. H. A. MAXWELL, Conservator, North Scotland.

Writing of the visit in the Daily Telegraph, Mr. JASPER MORE (C. Ludlow) said: "The Forestry Commission is one of success stories of modern Britain, and nowhere is this more evident than in the Scottish Highlands ... Forestry and the hydro-electric schemes are now two of the key factors in the economy.. The return on the money (spent by the Commission) is now beginning to be visible. On the one hand the life of the Highlands has in a large degree been regenerated; on the other, the nation has been provided with a massive timber reserve."

****MORE OSPREYS IN SCOTLAND**

NATURALISTS have greeted with pleasure the news that a second pair of ospreys have nested in Scotland -- this time in Inshriach Forest in the North Conservancy. The first pair, which for years nested at Loch Garten, are now only occasionally seen in the area; they lost their eggs in a gale in May and have not re-laid.

So far as the newcomers are concerned, every precaution is being taken against disturbance and a public observation post for viewing the birds has been erected by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, with the approval of the Commission. It is understood that the male carries an identification ring on its left leg; it is likely that this was attached in Sweden, in which country many ospreys are ringed each year.

****ANOTHER NATURE NOTE**

A dead starling was found in Halwill Forest, South West England, and on examination it was found to have been ringed. The ring was sent by Head Forester G. F. BEASLEY to the Bird-Ringing Committee at the British Museum, who have now stated that the bird was ringed as a nestling on 27.5.61 at Lyubtino (58° 48'N, 33° 23'E) in Novgorod Region, U.S.S.R.

****TO THE SUMMIT**

MR. T. QUEEN, Assistant Forester at Rowardennan, in which is situated Ben Lomond, took part in the gruelling annual race to the summit, 3,192 feet above sea level. This race is open to all comers, professional and amateur and Mr. Queen did remarkably well to finish second with a time of one hour, 22 minutes, 12 seconds, against the winner's one hour, 20 minutes, 15 seconds.

****HOLLY BERRIES IN MID-SUMMER**

MR. R. J. JENNINGS, Head Forester in the Dean, writes: "While walking through the 1869 oak behind the Speech House with the Deputy Surveyor on Mid-summer Day we came upon a holly tree bearing last year's berries, bright crimson in colour. This in spite of the hard winter, during which all berries were eagerly sought out by starving birds. It seemed strange to see plump red holly berries at such a time and I can only think that they were particularly late in ripening. I don't recall ever seeing this before; has any other reader?"

****GOLF IN SCOTLAND**

THE venue this year for the spring outing of the Forestry Commission (Scotland) Golf Club was Pitfirrane, Dunfermline. Twenty-six members and friends took part, on a cold and windy day which accounted for the higher than usual scores. The Sutherland Cup was won by club captain J. T. BISSET, H.E.O. (Directorate, Scotland) and the Guest Cup was won by Mr. B. LYNCH (a member of the staff of Messrs. Pearson, Robertson and Maconochie, the Commission's Law Agents in Scotland). Mr. Lynch also won the Scratch Prize. The Ladies' Prize was won by Mrs. I. CLELLAND, E.O. (West Conservancy, Scotland).

****STILL A "SPECIAL" - AT 75!**

MR. WILLIAM HARRISON, Warrener in part of Inglewood Forest, north of Carlisle, is 75 years young and still going strong. He is a "special" in the Cumberland and Westmorland Constabulary and, not surprisingly, he is the oldest officer in the two counties; he is ready and willing to be called out if required on any special occasion.

Mr. Harrison was "sworn in" in 1939 and, it is reported, was given as much responsibility as a regular policeman and a shilling a week allowance to cover shoe-leather.

****NEVER MIND THE HEAD FORESTER!**

OUR mention of fire towers in an earlier issue reminded Head Forester R. J. JENNINGS the Dean, of a humorous incident last fire season.

The telephone in one of the Dean towers, he writes, was out of order and the Post Office engineer had been called. Assistant Forester ALISTAIR FRASER ascended and held open the trap door from inside the cabin and leaned down to give a helping hand to the engineer, whose physique was on the large side. In attempting to squeeze through the trap with his equipment, the engineer got stuck and while trying to free himself dropped one of his instruments. This plummeted down some 15 ft. and hit me on the head as I came up the last flight of steps. I happened to be looking up and, trying to protect my face, I let go of the safety rail and instinctively grabbed the instrument to ward it off; however, it landed between the steps and my chest and after a couple of frightening moments I regained my balance.

Alistair Fraser, who was still looking down, said to the G.P.O. man: "My goodness, that was a near go, wasn't it?" - to which the engineer replied: "Yes, I'm glad he caught it, it's worth thirty quid!"

****FANCY A WOOD-CHOPPING HOLIDAY?**

MAYBE there's a lesson here somewhere. Maybe anyone caught starting a forest fire might be a deserving subject for the salutary treatment mentioned in an article in the Radio Times, brought to our attention by Forester J. HOBBS, of Cymmer, South Wales. This article, by **Johnnie** Morris, says:

"The lady guide is sympathetic; she is only trying to be helpful. She explains that in Sweden if you drink you must not drive a car; even if you only drink one glass of beer you are simply asking for trouble if you drive. The penalty for drinking and driving is wood-chopping our guide tells us all about people she knows who are away wood-chopping. Three months is the normal sentence. Three month's wood-chopping in a camp in the country. Even if your driving has been impeccable, just let the Swedish police catch you with a motor car in one hand and a drink in the other and before you know where you are you find yourself making a contribution to the match-stick industry. Our guide knows so many people on forced holidays wood-chopping that we are quite sure the great timber forests are grown specially to keep the wood-choppers supplied."

****SOME SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

THE Entertainments Committee, New Forest, is expanding its activities. The annual staff dance at Northerwood House has been followed by another dance at the Crown Hotel, Ringwood.

A darts challenge cup tournament has been established and 18 teams each of four players were entered; the final was to be played in July.

Next on the Entertainments Committee's agenda is a treasure hunt ending with a barbecue at the Old Fireplace, Emery Down, A pig to be roasted on an open spit. The remainder of the year's programme, briefly is: Saturday, 27th July - Horticultural Show; August/September - Children's sports day; September - dance at Minstead or Brockenhurst and commencement of the darts league; October - Grand dinner-dance; December - children's Christmas party; early January - traditional Northerwood dance (with the permission of C.E.O., of course!). So, says Mr. PETE GALTON, the energetic Secretary, readers need no longer fear being transferred to the New Forest!

****TRANSFERS**

THE following transfers have been notified to Headquarters: District Officer J. D. LEEFE from Brecon, S(W) to Grantham, E(E). Foresters F. S. SHINN from Tunstall, E(E) to Waveney, E(E); B. KEELER from Latimer, E(E) to Watlington, E(E); E. V. ROGERS from Crowsley Park, E(E) to Marlow, E(E). Assistant Foresters J. NILES from Poorstock, SW(E) to Dean F.T.S., Education; F. McCREADIE from Leanachan, N(S) to Inshriach, N(S); P. J. HIGHLEY from Laurieston, S(S) to Changue, S(S); J. WADE from Whickhope, NE(E) to Kielder, (Radio Unit); M. J. C. GRAHAM from Ardgarten, W(S) to Kielder; W. A. PROCTOR from Asknish, W(S) to Thetford, E(E); J. HOWARTH from Waveney to Latimer; M. J. SAYER from Thetford to Kings, E(E); P. HUTCHINSON from Working Plans, D(E) to Mortimer NW(E); J. M. CRAIG from York NE(E) to Ardgarten; K. ROBERTSON from Kings to Loch Eck, W(S); T. B. MOORE from Kershope, NW(E) to Working Plans. Higher Executive Officer F. S. HENDERSON from Shrewsbury, N(W) to Inverness, N(S). Clerical Officer E. C. M. PEARSE from Woking, SE(E) to York, NE(E).

****CAN YOU HELP?**

AN Oberforstmeister in Germany, with long personal associations with one of our Officers, has asked for help in finding accommodation for his 20-years old daughter when she visits this country in September - presumably for the month. The Oberforstmeister would like the girl to stay with an English family, preferably a forestry one, in the country. She can speak English, but wants to improve her knowledge of the language. Free board and lodging is sought in return for half a days' housework every day.

If any reader can assist, will he or she kindly write direct, as quickly as possible, to Mr. J. Q. Williamson, Director of Forestry for Wales. Address: Victoria House, Victoria Terrace, Aberystwyth.

****CONGRATULATIONS**

To Supt. of Works J. R. DUNROE, North Wales, and Mrs. DUNROE on the birth of a son; to Asst. Forester P. EVANS, of the same Conservancy, and Mrs. EVANS on the birth of a daughter; and to Assistant Forester H. THOM, Culloden, North Scotland, and Mrs. THOM, also on the birth of a daughter.