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THE PINE LOOPER AGAIN SPRAYING AT CANNOCK

The previous operation of this kind took place in 1954.

FOR the second time it has been necessary to spray plantations at Cannock Chase by 'plane to control the pine looper caterpillar.

The situation was considered critical because up to 6,000 eggs of the Bupalus moth were counted on some of the pines; a count of a 1,000 is sufficient to cause grave concern. Some 1,250 acres were treated on this occasion, again with DDT, and the arrangements were made by Mr. DAVID BEVAN, the Forest Entomologist, in association with Conservancy staff.

Mr. J. S. R. CHARD, Conservator, North West England, told the Press that the long term cure for this sort of infestation was to change the species from Scots to Corsican pine, which was thought to be a better timber-producer for the area and also to be more resistant to the pine looper and other possible pests and diseases. This transition might necessarily be spread over 40 to 50 years. Surveys were to be made, said Mr. Chard, to see what effect the spraying might have on wild life.

**A CAREER OF GREAT MERIT FAREWELL TO MISS ANN BROOKS

Mr. Baldwin departed at the end of August and Miss Brooks towards the middle of this month.

EVERYONE is sorry to lose Miss ANN BROOKS and Mr. FRANK BALDWIN, both of the Office of Director, England, who have retired.

By comparison, few women can have had a more meritorious career in the public service than Miss Brooks, and few can have enjoyed greater popularity. She entered as a typist and progressed to Senior Executive Officer, being the first woman in the Commission to attain such rank, and was also the first to be appointed an M.B.E. Her friendliness and willingness to help others ensured that she was regarded by her colleagues not only with respect but a great deal of affection; her pronounced sense of humour was always another welcomed characteristic.

Miss Brooks went to Rosyth Dockyard as a typist in May, 1924. Within two years the Dockyard was placed on a "care and maintenance" basis so that, while waiting for another appointment she served in the General Register of Sasines at Edinburgh. In September, 1926 she became a shorthand typist with the Forestry Commission, also in Edinburgh, and in August, 1931 was promoted to Clerical Officer.

In the first week of the war Miss Brooks was seconded to the Home Grown Timber Production Department, where she dealt with such matters as the acquisition of standing timber in Scotland, licensing and owners' claims. It speaks highly for her service with H.G.T.P.D. that she was promoted to Higher Clerical Officer in January, 1940 and to Staff Officer in May, 1943 and that she worked directly to Sir Samuel Strang Steel, the Director.

In January, 1946 the Commission gave Miss Brooks notional promotion to Higher Executive Officer and at the end of that year she returned to Drumsheugh Gardens on acquisition work. In August, 1953, she was promoted Senior Executive Officer and became Chief Clerk in the Directorate of Research and Education at Savile Row. When this Directorate was dissolved she was transferred to the office of Director, England, where in September, 1960 she took charge of the Acquisitions and Estate Management sections.

Before settling down in retirement Miss Brooks intends to make a visit, early next year, to Australia.

There was an "overflow" gathering of well-wishers at Headquarters to say farewell to Miss Brooks who, on behalf of colleagues and other friends, was presented by Mr. G. B. RYLE, our Deputy Director General, with a cocktail cabinet.

Miss Brooks herself provides a postscript: "In a career with the Commission of some 37 years," she says, "I have been privileged to make many friends. I would like my colleagues in the Commission, and those with whom I served in H.G.T.P.D., to know how much I have valued this and how grateful I am for all the messages of goodwill that have reached me in the last few weeks. One cannot leave after such a long time without being sad and the kindness of all the people with whom I have spent my working life will always be remembered."

Retirement of Mr. FRANK BALDWIN

Another of our best known colleagues, HEO Mr. FRANK BALDWIN, has retired after 36 years with the Commission, during which time he served in the office of the former Assistant Commissioner for England and Wales and subsequently in the office of Director, England, where he was concerned with estate work. He commenced his career as a Boy Clerk in the War Risks Insurance Office and later went to Customs and Excise, where he was a Clerical Officer.

Frank Baldwin served his colleagues as a staff association member for the whole of his 46 years in the public service. He was a member of the C.S.C.A. from its inception until promotion made him ineligible. From 1946 to the time of his retirement he was a member of the S.C.S. branch and for 15 successive years he was branch treasurer. "Frank," writes a colleague, "was never a seeker after office but he was always willing to help in any way he could. As a Committee member he spoke only when he had a sound contribution to make; as an office holder he observed the rules to the letter, and expected others to follow suit."

To mark his departure, Frank Baldwin received the gift of a garden chair from wellwishers. Among those present were representatives of the Legal Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture, with which he had long been associated.

****DISTRICT OFFICER MEETS THE QUEEN**

SEVEN years ago an arrangement was made between the Outward Bound Sea School at Aberdovey and the Forestry Commission at Dovey Forest whereby forestry could be introduced into the courses. Each course lasts 26 days and the boys normally spend four nights in one of the three log cabins, the days being spent mountain trekking and working in the forest. The District Officer gives a talk at Aberdovey to each course.

During the Royal visit to the Sea School, District Officer R. C. STERN was introduced to H. M. the Queen and H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh. This was a tribute not only to Mr. STERN, but to his forest staff who have helped to make the forestry side of the courses such a success, and to his predecessor, E. J. M. DAVIES, who was largely instrumental in getting the scheme going.

****THE DROPMORE PINETUM**

MANY of our readers are familiar with the famous Westonbirt Arboretum near Tetbury, Gloucestershire and the equally wellknown Bedgebury Pinetum near Hawkurst in Kent, either through the printed and published word or personal visit. It required the appearance of a new Forest Record (No.48), however, to acquaint us that there is a third notable collection of rare conifers -- namely in Dropmore Pinetum, some two miles north of Burnham, in Buckinghamshire.

It is with the kind co-operation of the present owner of Dropmore, Viscount Kemsley, that the Commission have published the Forest Record and the author, Mr. ALLAN MITCHELL, of Alice Holt Lodge, has some interesting things to relate. At Dropmore, he says, the records run back to 1795 and detailed measurements of some of the trees can be traced back to 1828. The collection is remarkably extensive and some of the specimens standing today were raised from the first lots of seed sent to Britain by botanical explorers, including David Douglas, early in the 19th century.

In 1792 Lord Grenville took possession of a cottage and 30 acres of heathland and planted two Cedars of Lebanon on the lawn; in the following year a common was planted up with pine and beech. From this the Pinetum proper was started in 1795-96, with trees raised from seed brought from New York by Lord Grenville. The Pinetum was greatly enlarged in 1830, being extended round the lake to reach its present size in 1843. Much of the new area was planted with species introduced into Britain, for his lordship received his share of the seeds given to members of the Royal Horticultural Society. When Lord Grenville died in 1834 Dropmore was already pre-eminent among pineta and contained the most comprehensive collection of conifers in Britain, and probably in Europe. Early in the 20th century planting was

again carried out on a large scale. Today trees of 35 known different years of planting and of over 100 species can be seen.

The Pinetum, says Mr. Mitchell, is occasionally open to the public under one or other of the garden schemes. Anyone fortunate enough to inspect it will thank Mr. Mitchell for a veritable mine of information about many of its inhabitants. Planting dates, heights and girths of many of the trees are given in the Record including, in some cases, even the rates of growth during well over a century. The knowledge gained at Dropmore, he adds, will be of value to all who raise conifers, whether for ornament or as timber crops.

**FAMILY OF FORESTERS

IN this Conservancy, writes our correspondent in North Scotland, in one family we have the father as a Head Forester, the eldest son a Forester, the younger son an Assistant Forester and youngest son a Forest Worker - not, I hasten to say, all at the same Forest. Can anyone beat this?

**PLEA FOR FOREST ENGLISH

WHY is it, writes Mr. J. C. VOYSEY, District Officer, Craven Arms, that we retain an archaic pseudo-botanic language when it comes to referring to trees? The most inconsistent use of the Latin persists as if we all pretended we were educated on classical lines. Is it that we imagine ourselves to be on some permanent I.U.F.R.O. tour or do we really not know the English names for nearly half the trees in our repertoire? By all means let us make clear to the world at large in our scientific papers the botanical species to which we are referring, but why should we hiccup into italics in every other line, or worse, be underlined. This sort of thing is more distracting to read than those holy capital personal pronouns.

Please let us decide once and for all on an English nomenclature for such trees as *A. procera* (or is it *nobilis* again?), *A. grandis*, *Tsuga* (the Americans must think we are crackers), *P. radiata* (what radiates?), *Thuja* (which *Thuja*?) etc.

**THE SQUIRREL MILITANT

I WAS inspecting a new plantation with the agent, writes Forester R. E. YOUNG of Stanway, South West England, when in the middle of the area of about five acres we came across a squirrel which, upon seeing us, moved away at no more than walking pace. We followed it to an old hazel stool, where it immediately turned and attacked the agent's ankles and managed at least one nip before it turned and attacked me by jumping as high as and at my knees some half dozen times. It seemed in no great hurry and allowed me to back slowly away and pick up a stick, after which I became the attacker. Even then the squirrel made no real attempt to get away and was despatched with ease. It was of normal size - about 15 inches from head to tail - and showed no sign of disease or deformity. Other squirrels seen on the site acted quite normally.

Has any other reader ever been attacked by a squirrel in this unprovoked way?

**CRICKET IN THE N.E.: BOWLS AT "ABER"

THE North East England Conservancy cricket team, which includes all grades from Forest Worker to District Officer, played and won their annual game against the Northern Timber Merchants. The trophy is the "Tom Place Cup", donated by the late Tom Place, a well known and popular timber merchant. So far 11 games have been played since 1953, the timber merchants winning two and the Forestry Commission nine. The last three matches have been very exciting affairs each with the decision in doubt until the last moment. The sides alternate as hosts, so that the match is usually also a first class social occasion.

The team have also entered the "Curtis Bennett Shield" competition on several occasions. This year they were drawn away against the Birmingham Area Civil Service team - a low scoring game on an interesting wicket. With only 62 required to win the Forestry Commission were 24 for 6 at one period but managed to get the necessary runs for the loss of only two more wickets. In the next round against a strong East and West Riding M.P.N.I. side, the Commission were eliminated, the scores being 163 against 107. It seems that this competition is dominated by "big" Civil Service Departments, but there is no reason why Commission sides should not do well. The organisers would like more entries to vary the draw, among other things, and any average Conservancy side might do quite well in the tournament.

MR. D. A. LLOYD, Clerical Assistant at the office of Director, Wales, won the singles championship of the Aberystwyth and District Bowls League and will hold the Ivor Owen cup for a year. Mr. Lloyd, who has been playing the game for some years, is now taking in hand a number of interested "bowlers" from the

office and it is hoped the Directorate Office will be entering a team in the league next season.

****HEADQUARTERS SHOW**

THE Autumn horticultural show of Headquarters Sports and Social Club was held early this month. The recent bad weather had taken its toll and the number of entries was consequently severely cut; surprisingly, however, the standard of the exhibits was quite high. Once again South East England supported the show and their efforts were rewarded by their winning a number of prizes. Exceptionally impressive exhibits were the dahlias sent by Mr. T. A. ROBBIE on the overnight train from Glasgow, and these, in spite of the long journey, gained a first and a second.

The Secretary of the horticultural section has made it known that he will be unable to continue in this capacity next year and the opportunity is taken to ask for a volunteer from those at Savile Row to take over the duties. These shows appear to be extremely popular and it would be a pity to see them discontinued for the lack of an organiser. Names, please, to Mr. A. B. CHAPMAN.

****NEW POSTINGS AND TRANSFERS**

FOLLOWING is this year's list of postings of Assistant Foresters from the Forester Training Schools: R. C. BRANFORD, P. BOND, D. B. WILLIAMS, R. J. ROGERS, J. B. KINGSMILL, A. C. MILLER, C. HUDSON, A. C. HANSFORD, A. C. SWINBURN, P. J. MOBBS and T. E. RADFORD to Research, Alice Holt; I. M. PARROTT, A. E. SURMAN, C. R. LIVERSIDGE to Edinburgh; P. J. LODGE to Cannock; J. L. WILLIAMS, Sherwood; P. G. RISBY, Chilterns; F. W. STANBRIDGE, Chopwell; D. ELGY, Wark; C. J. KING, Whickhope; A. A. PEARSON, Kielder (South); J. C. PHILLIPSON and G. E. HARRISON, Border; J. T. HILL, Swynnerton; M. CHEESEWRIGHT, Holt; J. DICKINSON, Bramshill; G. F. BARFIELD and B. PULFORD, New; J. B. RICHARDS and R. G. TAYLOR, the Dean; P. A. R. MACDONALD, Torrachilty; G. D. WATT, Inchnacardoch; C. E. S. FLEMING, Mull; A. N. GORDON, Blackall; T. L. RAINEY, Glentress; T. GOUGH, Laurieston; J. S. INNES, Upper Mithsdale; N. MACKELL, Glenbranter; D. G. LYONS, Glenfinart; R. A. MURRAY, Ballchulish; P. M. GREENING, Achaglachgach; D. T. CRAZE, Coed-y-Brenin; M. R. ALDRIDGE, Slebech; R. V. WILLS, Gower, C. F. H. TAYLOR, Rheola; G. A. ROSE, Brecon; B. L. JONES, Irfon; F. J. ROE, Monmouth; D. M. PUGH, Wentwood; J. P. MONTGOMERY, Cymmer; D. A. SHARP, Rhondda; H. C. CAISTOR, Research, Betws-y-Coed; A. W. F. WATSON, Research, Newton; J. D. McNEIL, Research, Tulliallan; A. B. LEWIS, Research, Fort Augustus.

The following transfers have been notified to Headquarters in recent months:

District Officers D. L. FOOT from Princes Risborough, E(E) to Northampton, E(E); J. R. N. BUSBY, Cambridge to Princes Risborough; R. B. HERBERT, Ruthin to Research, Alice Holt; I. A. D. GRANT, Dornock, N(S) to Inverness; R. M. HEWITT, Parkend, Dean, to Headquarters; L. C. TROOP, from Bristol to Barnstaple, SW(E); D. A. PATERSON, Dingwall, N(S) to Dornock; A. D. WALKER, Halstead, E(E) to Kielder, NE(E); F. M. MACRAE, Fort William to Dingwall; M. F. S. DICKENSON, Dean School to Chichester, SE(E). Foresters W. M. LAWSON, Balbair N(S) to Glen Loy, N(S); W. J. CAMERON, Glen Loy to Oyckell, N(S); J. M. RIDDELL, Farigaig, N(S) to Dornock; A. M. MORRIS, Research, Thetford to Research, Glenrigh; H. MACKAY, Oyckell to Farigaig; A. NICOL, Mull, N(S) to Leanachan, N(S); I. P. T. ROTHE, Work Study to Mull; J. T. WEBSTER, Dean School to Elveden, E(E); J. P. McRORIE, Glenbranter, W(S) to Loch Ard, W(S); D. H. ROSS, Loch Ard to Carron Valley, W(S). Assistant Foresters A. BEARDSLEY, Edinburgh to Kielder; F. G. O. THOM, Inchnacardoch, N(S) to Balblair; D. E. ELLIS, Latimer, E(E) to Swaffham, E(E); L. W. MACKINTOSH, Mull to Glen Righ, N(S); D. J. AMER, Kielder to Glen Trool, S(S); D. CAMPBELL, Glen Righ to Glen Urquhart, N(S); P. TOWNSON, Sherwood, NW(E) to Grisedale, NW(E); E. W. CAVELL, Bramfield, E(E) to Hevingham, E(E); E. W. HAMSTEAD, Hevingham to Bramfield; B. F. EDWARDS, Agric. Show Unit to Ceiriog, N(W).

Executive Officers D. W. BENOY, Glasgow to Edinburgh; D. P. PRINGLE, Edinburgh to Glasgow; R. J. BELL, Edinburgh to Aberdeen. Senior Superintendent of Works H. REDFORD, Llandiloos, N(W) to Glasgow.

****RARA AVIS, PLUS**

RECENT issues of the "Slasher" have given lengthy lists of birds seen from office windows, writes Assistant Forester A. A. BURNS, North Wales. Although these were quite extensive, I was surprised they did not include some of the very common birds found in most forests, namely: THE COMMON FIRE BIRD - Mainly a summer visitor, its haunts are dry grassy banks and sheltered spots. This species is renowned for its rapid getaway once a fire has started. THE CRESTED TREE RIPPER UPPER - May be identified by its furtive air and fast car. THE LONG HAired TREE SLASHER - Usually, damage is caused by the young of the species but it occasionally occurs as a mating display. THE RAGGED FENCE JUMPER - This bird causes damage to fences and may often be identified by an untidy-looking rear. THE HAIRY FACED LITTER LEAVER - This belongs to the order of decorator birds. It usually decorates hedgerows and beauty spots with paper bags and newspapers.