

The SLASHER

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News & Views

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PROPOSED FORESTRY EXHIBITION

MANY of our readers attended one or other of the three forest machinery exhibitions - held consecutively at two-yearly intervals at Bramshill, Harrogate and Edinburgh. They, and others, may be interested in having advance notice of the venue for, and the dates of, the next exhibition - Bramshill again, on Wednesday and Thursday, 17th and 18th June next. On this occasion there will be a new departure, in that it is hoped to extend the scope of the show. Forest machinery will, of course, provide the major feature but the proposal is to bring in additional exhibits representative of the forest industry as a whole, together with allied subjects which may well include country crafts, recreation and forestry, log-chopping competitions and so on. For this reason, therefore, the event will be known as the "Forestry Exhibition."

As previously at Bramshill, some of the display will be sited on the fringe of Blackbushe Aerodrome, while the nearby plantations will provide an excellent setting for some of the demonstrations.

It is of interest that there has been no major exhibition in this country devoted solely to forestry since that held in Edinburgh in 1884.

This note cannot, of course, be more than a preliminary announcement of intention. But it may serve to prompt some readers to record the dates.

**NORTHERWOOD HOUSE CLUB

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

IN the April issue of The Slasher we referred to the pending reconstitution of the Northerwood House Social Club, as required by law. This reconstitution has, of course, taken place and there now arises the matter of electing two members to serve on the Committee in succession to Mr. C. A. J. BARRINGTON and Mr. ERIC LEWIS; the former shortly completes his term of office but is prepared to serve again if re-elected, while Mr. Lewis retired from the Commission quite recently. For the record, other members of the Committee are Messrs. W. A. CORMACK; W. A. CADMAN; J. H. JAMES, ex-officio; and the Secretary, Mr. B. GALE.

The first step is for the Committee to receive nominations to fill the two vacancies and a form for this purpose is attached to this issue of The Slasher. It should be borne in mind that an extract from the appropriate Club rule is as follows: "Two of the four members (of the Committee) shall retire annually in rotation but will be eligible for re-election. The annual election will be held by the Club in full meeting or by postal ballot."

Other important points to remember are:-

Only full members of the Club are entitled to vote. These, as set out in the April Slasher, are the Chairman of the Commission; Deputy Chairman; all Forest, Estate, Engineer and Administrative Officers; the Principal Information Officer; Higher Executive Officers and above; Head Foresters; Scientific Officers; Experimental Officers; and the Principal Photographer. This implies, of course, that only people of the foregoing ranks or grades are entitled to nominate or second candidates.

A nominee must signify on the attached form his acceptance of nomination and his preparedness to attend meetings as required - these are not likely to be held more than two or three times a year, in London or at Northerwood House, and expenses will be met by the Club.

Nomination forms must reach Mr. J. H. JAMES, the Chief Education Officer, at Headquarters not later than 15th November.

Ballot papers including, obviously, names of nominees, will be distributed with the November issue of this newsletter.

****MORE SUPPORT FOR FOREST ENGLISH**

I was glad to see JOHN VOYSEY'S plea for more English and less Latin in our talks and writings, says H. L. EDLIN, our Publications Officer, because it bears out the policy that our publications have followed for nearly 30 years. Back in 1935, when nearly all our trees were still teenagers, the late Professor FRASER STORY adopted the current "American English" names for certain new species. Oneday, he reasoned, we will have to sell their timber, and no timber merchant is going to learn "fancy Latin" just to suit us. He certainly isn't going to teach his own customers any "fancy Latin", to re-sell our timber.

The name "Western red cedar" looked a little odd then; nowadays, when so many 'cedar' bungalows have been built because of this wood's great strength and durability, this name is obviously a selling point; has any firm yet advertised "Thuja plicata buildings?"

Thirty years ago, Western hemlock was almost unknown in the British timber trade; nowadays big quantities come in annually from British Columbia; we can market our own supplies under a familiar name but pity the poor Sales Officer who offers it as Tsuga heterophylla; few buy goods under a name they can't even pronounce!

As for Douglas fir, one of its Latin names (not yet adopted by the Commission) is Pseudotsuga menziesii. This is a mixture of Greek, Japanese and Scots, put into Latin form! I have yet to meet a Greek, a Jap or a Scot who can tell me how to pronounce it! Let's stick to Douglas fir and forget, in future, all about the old timber trade name of "Oregon pine". It's not a pine, and little of it comes to us from Oregon. The Canadians, understandably, never liked the name, and today they, the Americans, and the British importers too, all use our own familiar description "Douglas fir".

As for Lodgepole pine, remember this tree got its name from the settlers because of its straightness. It is said the Red Indians always chose it for straight poles to support their "lodges" or wigwams. But a visiting botanist found a few twisted bushes on a windswept seashore (no doubt the Indians persuaded him to stay there!) and that started the awful name of Pinus contorta. Try selling that to any timber man. "Away with your contorted pines", he will say, "I only buy straight timber!"

So, if a tree has an English name, I suggest you always use it. For precise definition at the start of a scientific paper, add the current Latin name, but don't repeat it thereafter. Of course, you must go to a bit of trouble to find out what the current scientific name is! Over the past 30 years, the botanists have changed their minds over 9 out of 12 of the common conifers we grow. By contrast, none of the English names have altered. This is another good reason for sticking to them. You will find them all in Bulletin 14, "Forestry Practice".

****DEATH OF FORMER DIVISIONAL OFFICER**

THE death was announced recently of Mr. DENNIS HUGH BIRD, who will be remembered by many members of the staff and particularly by those in East Scotland where most of his service with the Commission was spent. He joined the Commission as long ago as January, 1920 after taking a special forestry course for ex-officers, following the first World War. He became a Divisional Officer in 1946 and retired early in 1951.

A correspondent writes: "D. H. Bird, who was inevitably known to his friends as 'Dickie', was a likeable, convivial man who fostered extremely good relations with private woodland owners in the days when the Dedication Scheme was introduced. He was most closely associated with the Angus and Deeside districts and had special connections with Drumtochty Forest, in which he lived both as a District and Divisional Officer."

Mr. Bird died at High Coxlease House, Lyndhurst, where the funeral took place privately.

****THE DETOUR!**

A report in the Yorkshire Post provides the basis for this note. Perhaps we should quote, almost verbatim: "Central Scotland is lost in admiration for the ingenuity of an anonymous English tourist who quickly sorted out a traffic jam on a single track main road near Garve, Ross and Cromarty. A lorry carrying a wide load became stuck at a point called Silver Bridge.

"An A.A. patrolman was trying to sooth the temper of angry motorists while efforts were made to clear the road. One driver

of an imposing saloon suggested that a private road should be used to carry south-bound traffic through the woods to a point two miles beyond the detour. It was explained that the road was Forestry Commission property and banned to the public. The motorist revealed himself as Mr. MICHAEL NOBLE, Secretary of State for Scotland, and gave authority for the use of the route. The patrolman then piloted the long traffic queues through the detour.

"Everybody was happy until the incident was reported in the local newspaper. Then it was found that at the time of the incident the real Mr. Noble was shooting on a friend's estate in Aberdeenshire, more than 100 miles away."

****"CHAMPION" TILL 1970**

FOR years the Welsh have taken not a little pride in the fact that the tallest tree in Britain is a 181 feet Douglas fir in Powis Castle, Montgomeryshire. Now it would seem that this pride may be relatively short-lived, for Mr. ALLAN MITCHELL, of Alice Holt Lodge, reports a strong challenge by another Douglas fir at Dunkeld, Perthshire. This tree is 172 ft. tall and, says Mr. Mitchell, it is growing strongly and perhaps before 1970 it will have overtaken the Powis "champion."

While on the subject of big trees, we have often been asked for details of the history of the famous Knightwood Oak, in the New Forest. Surprisingly, no-one seems to have information on this subject and there is little to be said except that it is one of the largest and oldest trees in the New. Its dimensions, by the way, are: height 98 ft. and girth at breast height 23 ft. 2 ins. Volume in the butt is 524 hoppus feet and in the whole tree 934 hoppus feet. Incidentally, very close to the Knightwood Oak is a "double" tree of beech and oak; it is, in fact, two trees growing so closely together that they appear to have a common root.

Mr. Mitchell writes in the current issue of the Forestry Commission Journal, under the title "More Mighty Oaks". The biggest oaks in girth, he says, are the most decrepit and collapse rather quickly, so that he has "rather lost interest in these old pollards". He goes on to give a list of some oaks that he considers to be good trees and likely to remain so for some time. This includes reference to an oak at Blair Drummond, Perthshire, which is 115 ft. tall and has a girth of 20 ft. 8 ins. "Of the sessile oaks", says Mr. Mitchell, "two I have recorded are among the finest trees, let alone oaks, in the country: that at Nettlecombe, Somerset - 120 ft. high, girth 21 ft. 1 in.; and the other at Easthampton, Shobdon, Hereford - 90 ft. tall, girth 29 ft. 1 in.". Dimensions in each case were as in 1959. The oak at Easthampton appears quite sound but is in fact hollow, with a way into the tree; the branches sprout at 10 ft.

One of the biggest logs ever sawn in the West Country was dealt with by Knightshayes Estate Products Ltd., Tiverton, on a Stenner bandmill saw, this year. It was a Sequoia (Californian redwood) log and weighed six tons; it was 12 feet long with a 54 in. quarter girth and a diameter at the butt end of 8 ft. It contained 243 cubic feet of timber.

****ANY STINGING REPLIES?**

Mr. J. F. CLARKE, the Forester at Fineshade, Rockingham, East England, reports that during weeding operations on approximately 210 acres his workers destroyed no fewer than 245 wasps nests during the period 1st July to 25th September. The largest number destroyed in one day was 21 on 6th August.

One nest was of particular interest, being apple-shaped and built in a blackthorn coppice bush surrounded by grass. It was completely hidden and was some 12 ins. from the ground.

Can any Forester claim to have dealt with more nests in a similar period?

****WHO WAS SAVILE?**

THE Commission's headquarters have used a Savile Row address for some 30 years, but few of us have taken the trouble to ascertain how the street got its name. If we thought of Savile at all, we imagined him as a Regency buck in an extremely well-tailored suit.

Research shows, however, that this short but very famous thoroughfare was most probably named after Lady Dorothy Savile, who lived from 1699 to 1758. She was the daughter of the second Marquis of Halifax (1665-1700) and she married the third Earl of Burlington (1695-1753). Savile Row links New Burlington Street, Old Burlington Street and Burlington Gardens, and a bust of the

third Earl, based on a contemporary portrait, may be seen over the side entrance to the Civil Service Commission. Among the descendants of Earl Burlington and Lady Dorothy Savile is the Duke of Devonshire, the owner of extensive woodlands on his estate at Chatsworth, in Derbyshire.

****STARTED FORESTRY CAREER AT 50 PLUS**

Mr. F. G. FRANCIS, Forest Clerk at Kennington (Research) Nursery, has just retired at the age of 78. He started work at Kennington in February, 1939 and was established in 1949. He retired from his established post in 1950 at the age of 65 and has continued in a temporary capacity ever since.

Mr. Francis joined the Royal Marines as long ago as 1902 and served until 1924, reaching the rank of Warrant Officer. He was recalled to the Marines during the last war and served from 1940-45 as a Warrant Officer on clerical duties. Incidentally, one of his sons - Mr. E. R. FRANCIS - is a Forester with the Commission at Lindale, N.W.England.

****TRANSFERS**

THE following transfers have been reported to Headquarters: District Officers A. R. SUTTON from Chichester, SE(E) to Work Study, Research; J. E. A. KEEN from Reading, SE(E) to Bristol.

Head Forester D. A. COUSINS from Alice Holt, Research, to Research, Bristol; Forester E. WADDELOVE from Coed-y-Brenin, N(W) to Delamere, NW(E).

Assistant Foresters A. W. GALE from Research, Inchnacardoch to Deer, E(S); P. CHARLESWORTH from Taf Fawr, S(W) to Crychan, S(W); D. E. KING from Gower, S(W) to Cymmer, S(W); F. C. BIRCH from Mortimer, NW(E) to Matlock, NW(E); J. H. ROBERTSON, Education, Coed-y-Brenin to Education, Gwydyr.

****DIARY NOTE**

WE are pleased to announce the title of the Inforesta Drama Group's next production. It is J. B. Priestley's farcical comedy "When we are Married" and it will be performed on 24th January next at the Portcullis Theatre.

****PERSONAL**

OUR congratulations to Miss P. PRICE, Forest Clerk at Draethen, South Wales, on her marriage to Mr. L. JONES. Our colleague is well known, nationally and locally, in her maiden name for her prowess as a rider at horse jumping events. "It is clear," writes a correspondent, "that if she were to devote the whole of her time to this she would have world ranking. We are indeed fortunate that she remains dedicated to her clerical work."

Congratulations, also, to Miss ALICE DRUMM, Clerical Officer at Headquarters, on her marriage to Mr. R. LEWIS, Ministry of Health.

On the occasion of his transfer to the South Wales Conservancy, Mr. A. K. ORAM, District Officer in Devon for some 10 years, received the gift from colleagues of a camera of his own choice. Many members of the office and field staffs, industrial and non-industrial, of Hartland, Halwill, Okehampton, Lydford and Stratton forests and also of the associated Road, Mechanics and Estates branches contributed. The gift was handed over by Miss HEATHER STANBURY, a member of the Halwill office staff, who also addressed a welcome to the new District Officer, Mr. L. C. TROUP.

Mr. E. D. BLUNDELL, H.E.O. now in the Estates section of the office of Director, England, writes: "May I use The Slasher as a medium for reaching all my friends and colleagues throughout the South Wales Conservancy, to thank them for their great help and co-operation during the twelve and a half years I spent there? The warmth and sincerity of the good wishes for my future which I received, especially at the farewell barbecue at Llangynwyd, overwhelmed me and I cannot adequately express my gratitude. My wife is delighted with the gifts to which so many of you contributed. And as an Englishman, may I say CYMRU AM BYTH!"

Congratulations to Mr. J. R. FLETCHER, District Officer, Bakewell, NW(E) and Mrs. Fletcher, on the birth of a son; and to Mr. G. G. SEAL, Executive Officer at Headquarters, and Mrs. Seal, also on the birth of a son. Best wishes, also, to Forester F. W. THICK, Cotgrave Forest, NW(E) and Mrs. Thick, on the birth of a daughter.

NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO
NORTHERWOOD (FORESTRY) SOCIAL CLUB COMMITTEE

<u>NOMINEE</u>	<u>NOMINATED BY</u>	<u>SECONDED BY</u>
.....		
.....		
.....		

I am willing to serve on the Club Committee if elected and undertake to attend meetings as required.

Signature(s) of Nominee (s) (Please state rank or grade, and station)

.....	Date
.....	Date
.....	Date