

The FLASHER

FORESTRY
COMMISSION
News & Views

Issued by
INFORMATION
OFFICER

No.193

January, 1964

THE NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST

WE are pleased to record that three members of the Commission staff and two wellknown representatives of private forestry were honoured by H. M. the Queen in the Honours List.

MR. FRANK BEST, Conservator in North Wales since April, 1947, has been appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.). Under Mr. Best's direction and guidance his Conservancy has been developed, where Commission land is concerned, into the second largest in England and Wales; the total area comprises some 187,000 acres, of which nearly 135,000 acres are under trees. He has been particularly concerned to see that forestry plays its part in alleviating the drift of population from the upland areas, while in the sphere of private forestry he has worked hard to secure the confidence and co-operation of landowners.

Mr. Best joined the Commission in 1928 as a District Officer and was promoted to Divisional Officer in 1940.

Miss JANET STICKS, Higher Executive Officer in the Office of Director, Scotland, becomes a Member of the same Order (M.B.E.) for her outstanding work during 35 years in the public service and 33 years with the Commission. She entered the Civil Service as a shorthand typist, was promoted to Clerical Officer in 1936, to acting Higher Clerical Officer in 1941 (confirmed in 1950) and to Higher Executive Officer in 1953. She has served in the Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh offices and always has her work been marked by a quiet confidence, efficiency and good humour. Incidentally, we understand that Miss Stick's retirement has now taken place.

Mr. ROWLAND BULTITUDE, Forester at Dartmoor, has been awarded the British Empire Medal. He joined the Commission in 1946 as a trainee after service in the R.A.F., went to the Dean School and later on to Quantocks and then Stanway as Foreman, and was promoted Forester in 1950. Mr. Bultitude introduced and supervised emergency measures during the severe winter of 1962-63, when the Commission's houses at Bellever and the neighbouring village of Postbridge were several times isolated for periods of up to nine days at a time.

Major D. J. BRODIE, a member of the Commission's Scottish Committee, also becomes an O.B.E. His service with that body and, earlier, as a member and Chairman of the North Scotland Regional Advisory Committee, has been of great value to the Commission. He has been extremely active in encouraging private forestry, setting an excellent example by the management of his own extensive woodlands.

LORD NORTON, too, has been appointed an O.B.E. As an official of the Country Landowners' Association and latterly as Secretary of the Forestry Committee of Great Britain and of the Timber Growers' Organisation, he has played a most important part in promoting private forestry interests.

**HONOUR FOR DIRECTOR GENERAL

SIR HENRY BERESFORD PEIRSE, our Director General, has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Forestry Society of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, for his distinguished services to forestry both at home and in the wider sphere covered by F.A.O.

The Presentation was made at the Society's luncheon, held at the Naval and Military Club, and the company included, among representatives of all sides of the forestry world, the EARL WALDEGRAVE, our Chairman; the President of the Society, Mr. N. D. G. JAMES; and the Vice President, the DUKE of ABERCORN. Mr. James described Sir Henry as "an outstanding ambassador and champion of

forestry who had secured an increasing acceptance of forestry by the public at large." This, said Mr. James, was no easy task because there were many people who objected to trees being planted, just as much as they did to their being cut down.

Others who received the award were Mr. W. R. DAY, who during his 40 years as Pathologist at the Forestry Institute, Oxford, has continuously co-operated with our research staff; Mr. A. D. C. LE SUEUR, an expert on the planting and preservation of ornamental trees; SIR ERIC SAVILL, Director of Forestry for the Crown Estate Commissioners and the founder of the Savill Gardens set in the heart of the Windsor Park woodlands; and Mr. DAVID STEWART, a former member of the Commission's staff who became Chief Forest Officer for Northern Ireland where, in this case, the presentation was made.

It is understood that the Society of American Foresters had hoped to acknowledge their appreciation of the services of the late Mr. JAMES MACDONALD, our former Deputy Director General, to international forestry by making him an honorary member. Unfortunately this could not be done because the rules of the Society do not permit the making of posthumous awards. It is with mixed feelings that we hear this news -- of pleasure that a Society of such standing should have considered this step and renewed regret that our former colleague and friend was unable to receive a well merited honour.

****DEATH OF FORESTER W. M. LAWSON**

WE deeply regret to record the death at the early age of 40 of Mr. W. M. LAWSON,

Forester at Glenloy, North Scotland Conservancy.

Mr. Lawson commenced his career with the Commission at Glenbranter Forest and later, from 1948 received instruction at Benmore and Glentress Training Schools. Passing out in August, 1950, he was posted as Assistant Forester to Port Clair and then to Creaganeun. He was subsequently transferred to South Strome and, after several years, to Balblair. He was promoted Forester in 1958, and had only taken up duty at Glenloy a few months before his death. He had been selected by the Scottish T.U.C. for one of the two scholarships to the British Norwegian Summer School in Norway this year but was taken ill before the commencement of the course.

Mr. Lawson leaves a wife and three children, to whom we offer our sympathy.

****RETIREMENTS**

WE have to report, a little belatedly, the retirement of Head Forester E. T. JONES, of Ystwyth Forest, North Wales. Mr. Jones served the Commission from 1925, when he commenced as a Forest Worker, and for the past 17 years or so had been in charge of Ystwyth. Although it was his wish to slip away quietly and unnoticed his friends and colleagues felt they could not let such long and valued service pass unrecognised and, to mark the occasion, and to wish him a happy retirement, he was presented with a walnut coffee table and fishing rod and tackle.

Forester T. N. BROWNE, who had been in charge of Taf Fechan Forest, South Wales, since 1956, has also retired. On leaving school he worked in the Brocklesby Park woods in Lincolnshire before going to the Forestry School at Parkend in 1923 - just 40 years ago. Subsequently he worked for some time in Swaffham and Rendlesham Forests in East Anglia and was transferred to South Wales in 1930, where he served successively at Rheola, Margam, Hensol - where he was promoted to Forester in 1934 - Giedd, Wentwood, Tintern and lastly Taf Fechan.

Wherever he worked Mr. Browne left a legacy of carefully tended plantations but, perhaps more obvious to the general public, he has also kept an immaculate garden. Mr. and Mrs. Browne are keen gardeners and at Taf Fechan at an elevation of 1,100' and with an annual rainfall of about 100" (conditions which would defeat all but the best), their garden was a constant delight. Gardeners would come for miles to see it and hundreds of feet of colour film were used on it.

In Cardiff the Conservator, Mr. G. I. MACKENZIE, presented Mr. Browne with a chiming clock. Mr. and Mrs. Browne take with them into retirement the good wishes of a host of friends. They are going to live at Bonvilston and local gardeners will have to look to their laurels!

****MANAGEMENT OF WILD LIFE**

ALL readers, we are sure, will welcome the news that Mr. P. F. GARTHWAITE, Divisional Officer on the staff of Director, England, has been given general responsibility, to quote an official notice, "for co-ordinating and developing Commission policies and practices in wild life conservation and control throughout the three (field) Directorates".

Mr. Garthwaite's job will not be a fulltime one but he will give as much attention to it as he possibly can. He is very well qualified, having had considerable experience of game management in Burma, as well as in this country since he joined the Commission.

****THE NORTHERWOOD CLUB**

IN the ballot for election of two persons to the Northerwood House Club Committee the successful candidates were: Mr. D. A. MITHEN, District Officer in the New Forest; and Mr. E. H. BRADFORD, Chief Executive Officer at Headquarters.

****DISCOVERED UNRECORDED PLANT**

Sir WILLIAM TAYLOR, formerly Director General of the Commission, commenting on our note in the November issue about the retirement of Head Forester HOLLIS, writes: "G. W. Hollis is a name well remembered for his pioneer labours at Pembrey, where the sand dunes had cost the Commission no more than twenty shillings an acre, and later for his work at Savenake and elsewhere.

"His incumbancy at Pembrey, however, was also remarkable for his discovery of a small, red-flowered plant previously unrecorded in Britain, the seed of which appeared to have come in from America, possibly with packing material with United States Army supplies in the last years of the first world war."

Perhaps, if he reads this, Mr. Hollis may write and tell us what happened after the discovery and whether the plant was ever authentically identified.

****HOW OLD IS THAT TREE IN YOUR GARDEN?**

ONE of the oddest enquiries that has come my way, writes a colleague, concerns the tree that turned to stone. The purchaser of a house on the outskirts of Edinburgh found standing in the garden a tree trunk, some 10 feet high by six inches thick, that had apparently changed to reddish-brown rock. He wondered how this had happened and how old the tree must be. Examination of a specimen led to the following probable explanation.

Two hundred and fifty million years ago, more or less, the land where Edinburgh now stands supported a weird prehistoric forest of queer trees like overgrown horsetail plants. One of these, a Sigillaria, grew beside a large lake, and when an earthquake altered the water level, it sank to the bottom, still upright and intact. Rivers washed sand all round it, and mineral grains slowly replaced the wood cells; it became a fossil, perfectly preserving the outline of its bark and tissues in fine-textured stone.

Over the centuries, the sand around it was changed by vast pressures into rock, and some time during the last century quarry men hewed this out to gain the creamy-grey sandstone so widely used for the building of the modern city of Edinburgh. Then this tree trunk came to light, to be set up in due course as a curio in a suburban garden.

The rocks concerned are roughly the same age as the coal seams, which are themselves the debris of prehistoric forests. All the trees that throve then have now died out, with one solitary exception. If we could walk through those ancient woodlands there is only one tree that we (or some of us) would recognise. That is the Maidenhair tree, Ginkgo biloba, which survived in China until modern times; it is sometimes planted as an ornamental specimen, because its leaves resemble the Maidenhair fern.

****JUNIOR F.Ws VISIT THE PALACE**

Two Junior Forest Workers, A. S. HEMSLEY and P. F. WHITLEY, both working at Challock Forest, South East England, were invited to Buckingham Palace to receive their 'Gold Awards' under the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme from His Royal Highness in person.

Both lads are members of 1st Bn. The Buffs A.C.F., with whom they passed the various tests over a period of about two years. The tests were:- Rescue and public service training (fire fighting, first aid, etc.). The expedition (various cross-country walks, including sleeping out). Pursuits and projects (each lad had to start a project, i.e. build a canoe, and carry out a study of one of his hobbies). Fitness (tests in swimming, running, etc.). We offer our congratulations to these young adventurers.

**PROMOTIONS AND TRANSFERS

THE following promotions have been authorised: From District Officer II to District Officer I - Messrs. J. A. GOODLET, W(S); T. C. MITCHELL, NW(E); M. H. ORROM, NW(E); D. B. PATERSON, N(S); D. SMALL E(E); and J. B. TEASDALE, D(W).

To the list of promotions from Executive Officer to Higher Executive Officer given last month, should be added the name of Mr. V. M. COLLINS, D(E).

From Clerical Officer to Executive Officer - Miss C. M. DAVIES, NW(E); Messrs. R. P. BEAGLEY, SE(E); D. P. MASTERTON, W(S); and J. R. PRICE, N(W).

The following transfers have been notified to Headquarters: District Officers J. D. CAMERON from Salisbury, SW(E) to Neath S(W); A. MORRISON from Inverness D(S) to Fort William, N(S); I. A. D. GRANT from Dornock N(S) to Inverness.

Head Forester W. J. NICOLSON from Kirroughtree, S(S) to Newton Nursery E(S). Foresters C. J. ROBERTS from Talybont, S(W) to Brechfa S(W); J. P. O'MARA from Greskine to Moffat Water S(S); T. G. G. FRYER from Brechfa to Rheola S(W); D. F. D. BLACK from Loch Ard W(S) to Garadban W(S); R. BULTITUDE from Dartmoor SW(E) to Molton Woods SW(E); R. G. BRAINE from Wareham, SW(E) to Dartmoor; H. W. BURNIE from Bardney, E(E) to Bernwood E(E); G. ROBERTS from Bernwood to Hazelborough E(E); H. F. CLARKE from Molton to Pershore SW(E); W. R. RAE from Cairn Edward S(S) to Glenbreck S(S); R. McGEORGE from Dalbeattie S(S) to Selma Muir S(S); J. W. PARKER from Aldewood, E(E) to Thetford E(E); J. T. WEBSTER from Thetford to Aldewood E(E); G. W. BLAKE from Glenduror W(S) to Ardgartan W(S); F. R. COWIE from Ardgartan to Loch Ard; C. W. HART from Inverliever W(S) to Glenduror; R. J. GLADMAN from Wareham to Thetford; J. A. HENDRIE from Thetford to Wareham; C. BROOKES from Penninghame S(S) to Cairn Edward.

Assistant Foresters T. L. RAINEY from Glentress S(S) to Ae S(S); M. D. OXNARD from Irfon S(W) to Glasfynydd S(W); H. C. HILTON from Brechfa S(W) to Talybont S(W); G. O. SMITH from Alice Holt to Brandon E(E); B. H. BALLARD from Working Plans D(E) to Queen Elizabeth SE(E); D. M. PRICE from Talybont to Brechfa; J. EVERARD from Tidenham, Dean to Loch Carron, Work Study D (Res.); P. F. FERGUSON from Glenbranter W(S) to Saddell W(S); D. J. LYONS from Glenfinart W(S) to Glenrickard W(S); J. T. H. MURRAY from Saddell to Glenbranter; G. BRUCE from Working Plans D(E) to Working Plans D(W); M. J. YOUNG from Management H.Q. to St. Gwynno S(W).

Assistant Engineer (Civil) V. O. JAMESON from Aberystwyth to Shrewsbury N(W). Supt. of Works E. G. BRADBEER from Parkend, Dean to Lyndhurst, New; H. REDFORD from Glenduror (T) to Llanidloes N(W). Clerical Officers R. S. ELLIOTT from Dumfries S(S) to Edinburgh H.Q.; J. F. McSORLEY from Edinburgh to Dumfries.

**THE EVENING PRIMROSE

LAST year, writes Mr. ALAN MITCHEL, of Alice Holt Lodge, I found a rosette of Evening Primrose in my new shrubbery at home. Normally I would have ejected this with a force which would have carried it well into my neighbour's territory, for it can be a pernicious weed on the sandhills where we garden. My wife likes this scourge, and in a moment of weakness I left it and told her about it. It had to stay in the shrubbery. It grew suspiciously fast and was soon about the size of a large bicycle-wheel. My brooding over unfortunate accidents with the hoe changed to a horrible fascination as it began to dominate the shrubs. By the time it flowered it had the shape, stem and branching of a well-grown *Wellingtonia* (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) but was, of course, smaller. On several days it opened more than a hundred flowers. The dangers of seed distribution made me plan to fell it before dispersal began. This I did, and, when trimming out the log I made the following inventory: height 6 ft 6 ins; girth (at 0 ft.) 3 ins; branches 52; flowers 1,790; seeds per flower capsule approx. 160 (mean). It thus appears that, single handed, at one blow, I saved this part of Surrey from a potential 286,000 leafy bicycle-wheels, which at four foot spacing, would have smothered 140 acres.