

The FLASHER

FORESTRY
COMMISSION
News & Views

Issued by
INFORMATION
OFFICER

No. 210

June, 1965

OUR NEW CHAIRMAN

PROGRESS in the reconstitution of the Commission has already been recorded in Office Notices, and no doubt in due course we shall be in a position to publish in full the new chain of command.

Meanwhile we prepare to welcome our new Chairman, Mr. LESLIE JENKINS, who joins us next month. Mr. Jenkins has been associated with the timber trade for many years. On leaving school he joined John Wright (Veneers) Ltd. and was Chairman of the company from 1956 to 1959, and during his services with the firm bought timber from almost all parts of the world. Early in the war he organised the whole of the Canadian supply of birch logs required for the Mosquito aircraft programme.

Mr. Jenkins has in turn been Managing Director of I. and R. Morley and the Rank Organisation and is currently President of the National Association of British Manufacturers. He is Vice President designate of the proposed new Confederation of British Industry; Director of the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service; member of the Institute of Fuel and of the Industrial Coal Consumers' Council; and Director of Restall, Brown and Clenell, Ltd. He also serves on the British National Export Council and the Commonwealth Export Council.

We look forward to meeting Mr. Jenkins in the sure knowledge that his known enthusiasm for forestry will bring great benefits to the industry we serve. At the same time with regret we say farewell to LORD WALDEGRAVE, who has been our Chairman for nearly two years, and to whom much credit is due for his work in furthering the cause of forestry.

** DEPARTURE OF MR. H. A. TURNER

The overall changes in the Commission mean that we say au revoir to Mr. H. A. TURNER - gratefully not goodbye, since he leaves us for the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources and we shall therefore be able to keep in touch.

Mr. Turner came to the Commission as Secretary some 15 years ago from the Ministry of Transport and has therefore played a dominant part in the development of forestry in times which, occasionally, may have been crucial. He has over the years been associated with many important operations and one recalls an early exercise ably carried out soon after his arrival at the Commission, namely his work in connection with the all-important 1951 Forestry Act.

We asked Mr. Turner for a biographical note about himself. He writes: "The bare bones of my career are these. Born in Newcastle of Kentish parents and brought up in Yorkshire (so that I can claim to be a Geordie, a Yorkshire Tyke and a man of Kent). Hoped to go to sea, but went to Cambridge instead (Scholar of Sidney Sussex College 1930-34). Became a Civil Servant in 1935 - most unwillingly, as it was the last career I would have chosen; but there were few opportunities for Arts graduates then. Assistant Principal, Ministry of Transport, 1935; Private Secretary to Lord Brabazon of Tara and Lord Perth; Principal, Railways Division, 1939; Assistant Secretary, 1944; seconded to Treasury 1946 for two years with the resounding title (which I was too modest ever to use) of Director of Studies for the Administrative Class of the Home Civil Service.

"In an idle (but fortunate) moment I expressed a wish not to stay in the Treasury, which was hardly my spiritual home, nor to return to Transport, but to find a job with an outdoor flavour. Result: seconded to the Commission in 1950, for five years. Liked it so much that I decided to stay when asked to do so by Lord Radnor and Sir Arthur Gosling.

"You ask what my hobbies and outside interests are. I can only describe them as various. Chief among them is sailing, and with it the repair and maintenance of boats. I believe I am the only man in the Commission to have built a timber, half-decked sailing boat aided only by the recollection (and the wreckage) of the boat I had before the war. (She sails like a witch, too). Others are anything which takes me to the countryside or the sea; or repairing old things - furniture, and houses; exploring France - its architecture, its scenery and its cuisine; and (most absorbing of all) the study of the vagaries of human conduct, a pastime for which 15 years as Establishment Officer of the Commission has given me scope.

"Although I look forward to my new job, I am sad to leave the Commission, where I have been happy, and have felt that I was taking part in an activity that was well worth while. I shall never forget these years, nor the many friends I have made, to whom I now say thank you with all my heart."

We wish Mr. Turner all good fortune in his new sphere.

Not infrequently there are hails and farewells in all Departments. With the departure of Mr. Turner we greet Mr. M. COMPTON, who comes to the Commission from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, where he has been Principal Finance Officer. With the Commission he takes up the post of Head of Administration and Finance and to him we extend a warm welcome.

OTHER CHANGES

Serving with Mr. Compton in comparable rank will be Mr. ANDREW WATT as Head of Forest Management and, until his retirement, Mr. G. B. RYLE relinquishes his title of Deputy Director General and becomes Head of Harvesting and Marketing. Mr. J. R. THOM, Director, England, is for the time being to oversee Research.

The following promotions have been announced: Mr. JOHN JAMES, Chief Education Officer since 1958, is later to become Conservator, North Wales. A native of Swansea and educated at Glanmor Secondary School, he served in the R.A.F. from 1939 to 1945; from 1946-1948 he was at Bangor University and joined the Commission in 1949, serving as a District Officer at Cardiff, Tintern and Carmarthen until 1957, when he became Education Officer at the Gwydyr Forester Training School.

Mr. G. D. ROUSE, Divisional Officer in South West England since 1955, is to take up a Conservator post at Headquarters. He started his career with the Commission at Benmore Forest, Argyllshire, in 1934, became a District Officer in 1935 and served successively at Northampton, Brandon, Cambridge and the New Forest, and in 1950 became Chief Education Officer.

Mr. P. F. GARTHWAITE, who was fairly recently appointed the Commission's Wild Life Officer, is also to become a Conservator at Headquarters. He joined the Commission in 1948 as a District Officer, and was promoted Divisional Officer in 1951. He has served in turn at Thornton-le-Dale, Kielder and York in the North East England Conservancy, and at Woking, and in 1960 came to London on the staff of Director, England.

****FIRST PULPWOOD TREE FELLED**

THE first pulpwood tree for the new Fort William pulp and paper mill was ceremoniously felled at Inchnacardoch Forest this month. First it was marked by SIR JOHN STIRLING of FAIRBURN, formerly one of our Commissioners, felled by power saw by a proud workman and, with other trees, it quickly helped make up

the first lorry load. Sir John signed the first consignment note and then history was well and truly made as the vehicle moved off down the forest road.

Some stockpiling is required before the mill begins to operate later this year and this month the Commission will be supplying 4,500 tons of pulpwood; by September this will have reached 8,000 tons a month and by the end of 1966 full-scale working will have been reached at a monthly rate of 16,000 tons, or more than 500 tons a day.

SIR HENRY BERESFORD-PEIRSE, our Director General, said after the ceremony that no amount of cheap electricity, no amount of water, no amount of pressure to give employment could have induced a great pulp and paper industry to come to Fort William unless there had been available large quantities of the required raw material in the form of wood. And, added Sir Henry, if we press on with the expansion of forestry, and if we look forward as we should to the end of this century and beyond, we can envisage the whole complex of the forestry industry from seed to factory, under a partnership of private owners, the Forestry Commission and the timber trade as the very basis of a flourishing Highland economy and way of life.

MAJOR D. C. BOWSER, Commissioner and Chairman of the National Committee for Scotland, opened the proceedings and among the large gathering were MAJOR SIR WILLIAM STRANG STEEL and Mr. T. TAYLOR, Commissioners; Mr. JOHN DICKSON, Director, Scotland; Mr. H. A. MAXWELL, Conservator, North Scotland; Mr. G. I. MACKENZIE, Conservator, East Scotland; Mr. J. W. L. ZEHETMAYR, Conservator, West Scotland; Mr. G. FORREST, Chief Land Agent, Scotland and Mr. E. G. RICHARDS, head of the Marketing Section; and other senior officers.

**BIRTHDAY HONOURS

CONGRATULATIONS to Head Foresters

L. G. F. CROSS of Bramshill, South East England, and D. M. WATT, late of Monaughty, East Scotland, both of whom have been appointed M.B.E.s in the recent Birthday Honours List.

Mr. Cross joined the Commission in 1928 as a Forest Worker. In addition to being a first class forester he is known for his ability as an organiser, and played a major part in arranging the large-scale, first-ever forestry exhibition at Blackbushe last year.

Mr. Watt has devoted his working life to forestry and his efficiency is reflected by his own forest of Monaughty, which he had managed since 1936. He is an outstanding silviculturist. He retired in March last.

His friends in the Commission will be pleased to hear of the appointment of Mr. CHARLES VENABLES as an O.B.E. A member of the old and respected firm of timber merchants, Charles Venables, he served with the Timber Control Division at Bristol early in the war; he was later Trade Production Officer at Shrewsbury and served with the North German Timber Control. He became President of the Federation of Home Timber Merchants in 1953-54 and has been a member of the Commission's North West Regional Advisory Committee from 1951 to date.

**ANOTHER STALWART RETIRES

MR. J. F. SCOTT, Forester at Craik, South Scotland, retired last month after more

than 40 years' service with the Commission. To mark the occasion, at a farewell ceremony attended by representatives of Conservancy staff, office and field, Mr. R. R. DONALD, Divisional Officer, handed over a cheque subscribed by numerous friends in the South Conservancy. It is understood the money will be used for purchasing an easy-chair.

Mr. Donald recalled that "Jimmy" Scott came of well-known farming stock from Strachur, Argyll. He couldn't think what had made him give up farming and become a Forester, but in 1924 Mr. Scott had joined the Commission and given valuable and whole-hearted service in different Forests on both sides of the Border; Barcaldine, Kershope, Redesdale, Leithope and finally Craik, to which he had been posted in 1956. At all these forests, thriving plantations bore witness to his work.

Quite apart from his forestry career, however, "Jimmy" had always taken an active and prominent part in the life of the community; he was an Elder of the Church of Scotland, and he and his wife had served on innumerable committees, secular and otherwise. Mrs. Scott's true Highland hospitality and friendship had been appreciated by a great many officers of the Commission.

Mr. W. N. GIBSON, Divisional Officer, congratulated the village of Earlstoun (where the Scotts are going to live) on acquiring such useful residents. On behalf of the Conservancy office staff, Mr. T. FARMER, Chief Clerk, added good wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Mr. Scott said he had many happy memories of his time in the Commission and his only regret was that he had to retire. But he hoped as many as possible of his forestry friends would visit him at his new home.

****SUDDEN DEATH OF CLERICAL OFFICER** WE deeply regret to record the death of Mr. E. J. CUTTER, Clerical Officer in the Cambridge Office, who collapsed while at work early last month and died shortly after admission to hospital. Mr. Cutter served in the Royal Air Force from 1919 to 1930; he was later with the Air Ministry and the Ministry of National Insurance, before joining the Commission in 1949.

****OAK TREE AND THE VICTORY** INTERESTING indeed is the variety of ceremonies in which the Commission is invited to participate, in one way or another. The Research Station was asked to supply an oak tree for planting to mark the bi-centenary last month of the launching of H.M.S. Victory, on a site near the permanent dry dock of this famous ship.

Alice Holt Lodge rose nobly to the occasion by providing a 6-8 feet Quercus robur grown from seed collected from the gardens of Chartwell, home of SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL. This origin, it is understood, was recorded on the plaque which commemorated the planting.

****VALUING BY GLIDER** MR. H. J. HOOPER, Assistant Land Agent, North East England, makes a claim to the most unusual method of travel in the performance of his duties with the Commission. He recalls that in Wales a Forest Officer tried to use a helicopter for carrying out his inspections, while in Scotland travel by steam and row boats is not unusual.

Recently, however, Mr. Hooper had to undertake the task of valuing some land at Sutton Bank near Helmsley, Yorkshire, and in order to do this he used a glider from the Sutton Bank Gliding Station. He comments, though, that "Winging around in leisurely silence at a height of 2,000 feet or so I found it somewhat difficult to place a rental value on respective field enclosure". He enquires whether any other member of the Commission staff has employed a more unusual method of travel.

****WE EVEN HELP MAKE WORCESTER SAUCE!** THE note by Mr. A. A. CUTHBERT last month on woodland crafts in South East England in prompts me to write of a product of Wyre Forest which is essential to the manufacture of Worcestershire sauce, writes Mr. M. C. SHIRLEY, District Officer. Much of the hardwood coppice is prepared for planting by local smallwood contractors and towards the end of the process neat bundles of birch twigs often appear on the ground. These are prepared by a local craftsman, aptly called Mr. BIRCH, who supplies them to a Worcestershire sauce factory at Stourport-on-Severn. The twigs are floated on top of the huge vats of sauce to provide a habitat for vinegar bacteria, which are essential to the process. Shredded plastic has been tried as a substitute but the resulting loss in piquancy rules it out.

Mr. Birch still makes attractive oak chip baskets as a side line. Another product of this coppice working worthy of mention is refinery poles. These are usually of oak, though other hardwoods are acceptable, and are used for copper refining in the Black Country. I am told the poles are thrown into vats of molten copper and the immediate escape of the vaporized sap in fine bubbles purifies the metal. No mechanical alternative to this time honoured method has been discovered so far.