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GREAT DAY FOR THE HIGHLANDS

A red letter day for the promoters of the Fort William pulp and paper mills project, the Forestry Commission and private woodland owners, and the Highlands. Before a distinguished company, the mills were officially opened this month by Mr. LESLIE FARROW, Honorary President of the Wiggins Teape Group of papermakers of which Scottish Pulp and Paper Mills are a division. Our Chairman, Mr. LESLIE JENKINS, was there officially to offer the Commission's congratulations and good wishes to the sponsors.

The Commission was also represented by SIR WILLIAM STRANG STEEL and Mr. T. TAYLOR, Forestry Commissioners; SIR HENRY BERESFORD PEIRSE, Director General; Mr. JOHN DICKSON, Commissioner for Harvesting and Marketing; Mr. HAMISH MAXWELL, Mr. G. MACKENZIE and Mr. JOHN ZEHETMAYR, Conservators respectively for North, East and West Scotland; and other Commission officers who have played such an important part in organising supplies for the mills.

Throughout there was much well deserved praise for Dr. THEODORE FRANKEL, Managing Director of Scottish Pulp and Paper Mills, through whose tenacity and foresight this giant undertaking came into being.

The Rt. Hon. WILLIAM ROSS, Secretary of State for Scotland, stressed the importance of the Fort William undertaking and emphasised the need for more afforestation. Professor R. W. GRIEVE, Chairman of the Highlands and Islands Development Board, said the part that forestry could play in the Highlands economy was "crucial". And Mr. MARK R. NORMAN, Chairman of Wiggins Teape, who opened and closed the luncheon proceedings, paid tribute to the co-operation received from forestry interests. Mr. Farrow had referred to "a former Director General of the Commission who was among the missionaries who had foreseen the possibilities for the establishment of the mills"; it was therefore fitting that SIR ARTHUR GOSLING was present.

The mills have been built on a site of 80 acres leaving room for further development, and the buildings occupy 320,000 square feet. The pulp mill was built 400 feet long, the paper mill 540 feet, and the building for finishing the paper ready for printing is 530 feet in length. The power house is 170 feet high. There are also large engineering workshops, a chemical conversion building, offices, laboratories and a restaurant. Nearly 5,000 tons of steel and 30,000 cubic yards of concrete were required in the building of the mills, which have three miles of their own railway track running off the main line, and two miles of roads. Hundreds of new houses have been built for mill workers and new schools erected for their children.

Water for the mills, the soft spring and rain water which is ideal for paper-making, comes from the aluminium works outside Fort William and a concrete pipe 113 inches round runs over the river Lochy, through a peat bog and under the Caledonian Canal in its course of three miles; it can deliver 25 million gallons every day. The pulp mill uses a new Swedish process to turn wood into pulp with great efficiency. The annual output will be more than 100,000 tons of pulp and of this, in first years of operating, 40,000 tons will be going to the paper mill and the remainder will be used elsewhere.

The Highland forests will be supplying about two thirds of the raw material required by the mills - the Commission's part in all this and social implications in the way of increased employment have already been reported. But it is worth noting that the woodyard at the mills is the largest in the country and will take 1,000 tons of pulpwood a day from the Highland supply area.

In his speech our Chairman said that with the opening of the mills there must be an immense and heartwarming feeling of achievement and fulfilment, and a realisation of many dreams. Those whose faith founded the Forestry Commission should be recognised and praised, as should the many private woodland owners whose contribution to forestry so fully justified the lead their forbears gave. But thoughts should also be on the present - to all that was owed to the Board of Wiggins Teape and to Dr. Frankel, Managing Director of the mills. In these we had one more proof of the fact that several elements of this great industry, from the production of the tree seed to final utilisation as paper, should and must be interdependent.

"We in forestry," said the Chairman, "welcome Dr. Frankel's assurance that the benefits of the supplies of home grown wood to the paper industry is no less important than the benefits of this great and growing market to the forests. The future planning of forestry must, to a large extent, rest on the acceptance and follow-up of the economies of that concept, and their effect on our third largest import - timber and timber products. While our home forests can and do make a fine contribution to amenity and recreation, do not let us forget that they are there to do a job of work - a job that implies employment and communal wellbeing. A job, above all, that made a contribution last year towards the balance of payments of about £40 million; a figure, impressive though it is now, which will rise substantially in the future."

****IT HAPPENED IN THE 1890'S**

HERE are we, in 1966, considering the marvel of being able successfully to transplant semi mature trees. "Instant Trees!" proclaim the advertisements of one firm which specialises in providing local authorities and other bodies with sizeable trees for use for amenity and landscape purposes. The Civic Trust, of course, is doing a remarkably fine job in promoting transplanting techniques.

Yet, believe it or not, this sort of exercise was being carried out in the 1890's. Brown and Nisbet's "The Forester", Volume I, published in 1894, contains a long discourse on the subject and gives diagrams of some of the machines employed - not the colossi that many of us have seen in action in recent years, but seemingly effective and efficient. One of these early machines, it appears, was used extensively at Kingston Hall, Derby, some years prior to 1894, and having lifted numerous large trees and carried them to the Hall from considerable distance, transplanted them and so "transported a bare knoll into a well-wooded park within the short space of about four or five years." Not surprisingly, stout timbers were used in the construction of the machine, which was equipped with powerful central jack-screws to raise planking placed under the uncovered roots.

Many of the trees transplanted at Kingston Hall were 40 feet tall and their weight, together with the ball of earth around the roots the machine, was more than 10 tons. Nine horses were required to haul each load.

It would be interesting to know if those Kingston Hall trees are still alive and whether any readers have records of transplanting machines being used prior to the occasion mentioned above.

****PRIZE-GIVING DAY AT FORESTER SCHOOLS**

THE close of the school year at our Forester Training establishments is customarily marked by presentation ceremonies at which students receive the coveted Forester Certificate and the prizes.

At Faskally School, Perthshire, Mr. H. A. TURNER, formerly Secretary of the Commission and now with the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources, distributed the awards; and at Gwydyr School, in North Wales, Mr. G. B. RYLE, lately Deputy Director General and now vigorously pursuing the "career" of a retired forest officer, was back on familiar ground, since much of his time with the Commission was spent in Wales.

At the Dean School not only were most receiving awards from overseas countries (mostly African) but the distinguished visitor who performed the ceremony was Mr. I. JIMETA, First Secretary for Education, Nigerian High Commission. The Dean School has a long and successful history in the training of overseas students, going back to 1920, when embryo foresters from Cyprus were in residence. The numbers of students from abroad, and the countries involved, have risen since then and in recent years young men have come from Nigeria, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, West Cameroons, Cambodia, Fiji, the Seychelles, Mauritius and Malaya. Reports from their employers, on their return, have been encouraging and have reflected great credit on the Dean staff and instructors.

*****TOMORROW'S COUNTRYSIDE"**

"THE Forestry Commission which, 20 years ago, was largely concerned with the growing of pit-props, has now shown itself to be not merely our largest landowner but also one of our best, deeply involved in problems of improving the soil, promoting the welfare of the people who draw their living from it, fostering the conservation of wild life, and creating a landscape that is as attractive for the townsman to visit as it is for the countryman to dwell in."

This generous tribute is not as might be supposed from an inspired passage in one of our own publications, but from the first chapter of GARTH CHRISTIAN'S recent book "Tomorrow's Landscape". The author is a naturalist and journalist whose writings reveal a refreshingly balanced view of the factors shaping the modern countryside. Even the much abused manufacturers of agricultural chemicals get fair treatment and, indeed, praise for their co-operation with conservationists once the danger of widespread contamination was realised. Tributes are paid to sportsmen and landowners as well as preservation societies for their contributions to conservation, and the emphasis throughout the book is on the growing spirit of co-operation between groups of people who only a few years ago were at variance.

The work of the Commission is dealt with at length and there is also reference to the opportunities we are providing for schools and young people for field studies. Indeed, trees and forestry are mentioned in most chapters, with titles such as Change on the Farm, New Life for Old Commons, Lakes and Leisure, Redeeming Man's Mistakes, and The Road Ahead. Garth Christian must have travelled widely to glean his facts, which are fresh and obviously first hand, and has knit them together with the strong cords of enthusiasm and objective comment. The many photographs well illustrate the text. "Tomorrow's Landscape" is published by John Murray at 35s.

****HAIL, SYLVATICA**

OUR colleagues at Basingstoke have lost no time in the formation of the Sylvatica Sports and Social Club, whose first newsletter - Trunk Call - appeared recently. In this the club Chairman, Mr. JOHN PARKER, wrote that the title Sylvatica was inspired by Mr. CHARLES RIDLEY and so provided a fitting genetic companion for Inforesta. Ideas for social activities, it seems, are forthcoming in some measure, with wine-making, motoring, photography and lunch-hour talks to the fore. An office "shop" is open. Sporting events are being arranged.

away to such an impressive start.

It is good to learn that our friends are getting

● ANOTHER STALWART GONE

ANOTHER Commission stalwart, in the person of Mr. FRANK JOINER, has retired. He had been employed in The Dean for 45 years, starting work with the Commission in 1924 for 10s. a week. During his service he worked under 16 different Foresters, at least two Head Foresters and 11 Deputy Surveyors. It was not uncommon in early days for Frank to see some of these supervisors making their rounds on horseback. Frank's first job was planting larch in the vicinity of the Speech House - and his last, incidentally, weeding in the Viney Hill nursery. His felling he learned from the redoubtable (now legendary) Elam Ward.

****FESTIVAL RAISES £100**

A "Woodland Festival" at Santon Downham, the forest village at Thetford Chase, emphasised once again the strong community spirit of the residents and forest staff. Coach tours provided visitors with an opportunity to see parts of the forest rarely entered by the public. Commission staff acted as guides, so that the various parties were the more easily able to appreciate how forestry has transformed the once almost unproductive Breckland into thriving woodland, which in turn offers public recreation and a haven for wild life.

The church of St. Mary's was beautifully decorated for the festival and with a forest theme. Among the displays was a miniature but exact replica of part of Thetford Chase, including a picnic site. About £100 was raised through the festival and this will go towards the purchase of a new organ for the church.

****VISITORS FROM FAR AND WIDE**

CONSIDERING that the forestry tradition in this country has developed over a comparatively short span of years, the Commission's reputation throughout the forestry world is remarkably

high. Proof of this is to be found in the substantial numbers of visitors from overseas who descend upon the Research Station at Alice Holt or are catered for from Headquarters, through Miss M. J. EDEN. The recent World Forestry Congress in Madrid, of course, gave a fillip to all this and it is interesting to look through the Headquarter's records and note the diversity of people who came to see us and our forests on their way to the Conference or home to their respective countries. They included, for example, Mr. A. D. LAWRENCE, Chairman of the Forestry Commission of Victoria and Dr. M. R. JACOBS, Director General of the Australian Forestry and Timber Bureau; itineraries for both included visits to Scotland. Then there was Mr. W. G. BURCH, Chief Forester, British Columbia, who visited Wales, and Mr. HARI SINGH, Inspector General of the Indian Forest Service, looked in at Savile Row to discuss arrangements for the Ninth Commonwealth Conference, which is to be held in India in January, 1968. A Working Party representing the International Union of Forest Research Organisations, and considering matters of forestry finance, met at Savile Row before visiting Lake Vynwy where, it may be recalled, the Forestry Commission and the Liverpool Corporation have a unique partnership, in that the formation and management of the woodlands at Vynwy has been a joint effort.

Reverting to the World Forestry Congress, Mr. J. Q. WILLIAMSON, Senior Officer for Wales (who is soon to depart to Chili to take up an F.A.O. appointment) received on behalf of the United Kingdom two prizes. These were awarded for the film USUTU, shown in the Congress film festival and produced for the Colonial Development Corporation, Messrs. Courtalds Ltd., and the Usutu Pulp Company. The awards were a cup donated by the Spanish University of Information and a "golden tree" given by the Berlin Agrarian Film Festival. "Usutu" tells the story of a forestry and pulp milling project in Swaziland. Another task which befell Mr. Williamson was the planting on behalf of the United Kingdom of a tree in the World Grove at Madrid University.

**TRANSFERS

THE following transfers have been reported:

District Officer J. JARDINE from Parkend to Dean, to Inverness; Chief Foresters J. R. A. FRATER from Inchnacardoch N.(S) to Newton E.(S); W. J. NICOLSON, Newton to Skye N.(S); A. McLEMAN Ardross N.(S) to Leanachar N.(S). Head Foresters D. W. LAWSON, Tulliallan W.(S) to Glenorchy W.(S); A. MACKAY, Barcaldine W.(S) to St. Fillans W.(S); H. C. McLARTY, St. Fillans to Barcaldine; M. K. McDONALD, Devilla W.(S) to Tulliallan; R. M. EDWARD, Brownmoor S.(S) to Garioch S.(S); A. MACKAY, Affric N.(S) to Ardross; D. CARMICHAEL, Fiunary N.(S) to Strathmashie N.(S); F. W. S. SUTHERLAND, Glenhurich N.(S) to Lael N.(S); H. MACRAE, Lael to Balblair N.(S); W. D. MacPHERSON, Slattadale N.(S) to Glenhurich; H. D. MORRIS, Glenrich N.(S) to Inchnacardoch; J. A. OGILVIE, North Strome N.(S) to South Strome; J. C. WATSON, Caenacroc to Slattadale; F. M. McALLAN, South Strome to Fiunary; D. GRANT, Queen's N.(S) to Glenrich; D. M. MURRAY, Bareagle S.(S) to Carrick S.(S); T. S. HARVEY, Eddleston Water S.(S) to Yair Hill S.(S); M. P. SCOTT, Strathconon N.(S) to Queen's; L. A. FRASER, Black Isle N.(S) to Rumster N.(S); G. B. NEWTON, Gisburn N.W.(E) to Leanachan; P. ARMSTRONG, Glenbranter W.(S) to Lock Eck W.(S).

Foresters J. WADE, Radio Unit to Kielder N.E.(E); J. T. HILL, Show duties to Swynnerton N.W.(E); P. J. WEBB, Hartland S.W.(E) to Bideford (Research); A. F. THOMAS, Carirogo to Brownmoor; J. L. BROLL, Yair Hill to Eddleston Water; P. GRAHAM, Carrick to Bareagle; D. M. CAMPBELL, Knapdale W.(S) to Gleninart; W. R. C. BEATTIE, Rumster to Strathconon; D. A. MacDOUGLAS, Strathmashie to North Strome.

Trainee Foresters D. W. WATTS, Show duties to Mortimer N.W.(E); D. C. COTTON, Clashindarroch E.(S) to Rannoch E.(S); W. M. FREEMAN, Glenrickard W.(S) to Garadban W.(S); P. R. RATCLIFFE, Inverinan W.(S) to Minard W.(S); G. S. HEDDON, Ballachulish W.(S) to Inverinan. CEA R. WATSON, Lorne W.(S) to Loch Ard W.(S).

**GOOD P.R. PAYS

HAVING just published the second edition of his "The Forester's Companion", Mr. N. D. G. James has written in expressing appreciation of assistance received from members of the Commission staff.

He goes on: "I might add that in all my dealings with the Commission over the past 32 years, I have always received the greatest kindness and help."

This sort of comment is indeed rewarding and points once again to the value of good public relations.