

THE CLASHER

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MASTS FOR TALL SHIPS

SELDOM if at all do we associate our forests with the production of timber for ships. Yet the Dean is still in the news in this connection, having just provided two great masts for a Baltic trading schooner now being fitted out at Faversham, Kent. These masts, it is understood, were the tallest to leave the Dean for some years and a special route and timing for the journey were given by the police.

The masts are 60-years old Douglas fir and when ready for stepping in the schooner will be of the following dimensions: 72 ft. 9 ins. long, 16 ins. diameter at 15 ft. from the butt, and 8 ins. diameter at the top: and 68 ft. 6 ins., 15 ins. diameter at 15 ft. from butt and 7 ins. diameter at the top.

**POINTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT

THE Annual Report of the Forestry Commissioners for the year ended 30th September, 1966 was

published this month.

The upward trend of production was continued, stated the Report, the volume produced in thinning and clear felling increasing by 9 per cent over the previous year, from 28.4 million to 31 million hoppus feet (or more than one million tons). Standing softwood timber was readily saleable and the average price received per hoppus foot increased during the year by 5 per cent. The developing industrial market led to an increase of 40 per cent in home production (Commission and private estates together) of pulpwood in 1966. An important new market was established with the opening during the year of Thames Board Mills' new pulpmill at Workington. By 1967 the Commission expect to supply 50,000 tons of wood to this pulpmill: by 1970 this will have increased to 70,000 tons and, by 1975, to more than 100,000 tons.

The area of new planting during the year was 47,672 acres, 452 less than in the previous year. Additionally, 6,266 acres were re-stocked. The area of new planting in Scotland increased by over 2,000 acres to 31,907 acres, a satisfactory step towards the 36,000 acres programme which is planned for that country for 1969 onwards.

The total area of plantable land acquired was 34,500 acres, an increase of nearly 3,000 acres over the previous year. Nearly all the land acquired was in Scotland. At the end of the year the Commission's estate covered 2,729,385 acres, of which 1,597,982 were under plantations. Nearly 700 miles of forest roads were completed to the final standard in the year and 54 miles to the initial standard, giving a total of 8,965 miles.

The Report contains the Commission's accounts, which have now been changed so that they approach commercial accounting as closely as is currently possible.

Copies of the Press summary of the Report have been sent to Conservators. Individual readers can nevertheless obtain a copy direct on application to the Information Section at Savile Row.

**TO BE CHIEF FORESTERS

PROMOTIONS to Chief Forester have recently been authorised, and will take place as

opportunities arise, of the following:

Mr. R. S. ANGUS, West Scotland; Mr. J. D. CHISHOLM, North East England; Mr. W. A. EVANS, South Wales; Mr. P. J. GARROW, East Scotland, Mr. M. E. McNULTY, New Forest; and Mr. D. M. MORGAN, South Wales.

****THEY PLANTED COPPER BEECH**

THE planting of a copper beech tree marked the last day of service of Mr. W. R. GOUGH, Head Forester, who retired last month after nearly 42 years' service with the Commission in North East England. The ceremony was attended by the Conservator, Mr. G. E. GODWIN and others from the York office, together with Mr. Gough's colleagues in the Allerston district and the entire labour force of the Wykeham beat. A farewell dinner and presentation are being arranged. Mr. and Mrs. Gough are to live in Wykeham village and our best wishes go to them for a long and happy retirement.

On the occasion of the Allerston ceremony mentioned above a copper beech was also planted by Foreman R. N. RUSTON, who is to retire in August. He, too, has had some 42 years with the Commission.

****"LUGGING IT"**

WE recently referred to the term "lugg" as a measure of land used, it was suggested, exclusively in Herefordshire. We are pleased to hear from a number of readers on this subject and, from the comments of two of them, it is clear that the word is known in other counties to the west of England.

Mr. MORLEY PENISTAN, Assistant Conservator, South West England, says he came across the term in South Gloucestershire when trying to get a price for hedge-laying around his garden by an old coppice-cutter. The latter's measure was an eighth of a chain, that is $8\frac{1}{4}$ yards linear (not surface or square). Mr. H. O. WAGG, Executive Officer, writes all the way from Inverness: "The word lugg is in common use in mid-Wiltshire. In days when I dealt with allotment areas, this was the normal measurement -- a common size of allotment being 10 or 20 lugg. As far as I can remember a lugg was treated as a square rod, pole or perch. At least no complaints were received from the rural population when empirical methods of measurement were employed."

****THE LATE MR. "JIM" CHRYSTALL**

FOLLOWING our sad news last month of the death of Mr. JIM CHRYSTALL, District Officer in East Scotland, a correspondent writes:

"As well as being a keen forester, Jim Chrystall was noted for his thoroughness and his organising and administrative ability. He would not accept slipshod work in the field or on paper and his recording of information and the arrangement of his forest and office work was outstanding. He had a keen and penetrating mind which got to the root of problems and he had no time for the superfluous or ornate. A wide reader on a great variety of subjects, he continued to educate himself during the whole of his service with the Commission, whereby he was able to discuss a great variety of subjects, including, of course, forestry. His views and comments were always well worthy of attention.

"His going is a sad loss to the Commission and to his colleagues, by whom he will be very much missed, for his stamp of character and ability is not easily replaced."

****END OF THE ROAD**

MR. J. W. MACKAY, former District Officer, who retired from the Commission more than 20 years ago, has died at the age of 89. His passing will be greatly regretted by former colleagues. Mr. W. P. THOMSON, District Officer, Stirling writes: "Many of the older members of the staff will remember him as a gentle, benevolent bachelor who could be relied upon for any kindness and could not possibly have made an enemy in all his life. It would seem to me that his longevity and highly Christian outlook had a definite connection."

Before retirement, Mr. Mackay had been stationed at Drumsheugh Gardens and was in charge of the Peebles district.

It is with great regret that we also have to report the death of a former Forester, Mr. ALBERT BIRKETT, who served in the East England Conservancy for 39 years before his retirement in 1965. He leaves a widow and two children to whom we offer our sympathy.

****SEVEN WOULD LIKE TO BE CHAIRMAN**

ABOUT two-thirds of a group of 32 Harrow sixth-formers, given 10 choices as what they would like to be by age 50, said they wanted to go into industry. So reported the Financial Times, whose story went on: "Asked what would make most difference to their attitude to going into industry rather than the older professions and services, almost all of them chose 'removal of surtax'. Asked whether they thought there was any remnant at Harrow of the social attitude which regarded industry as being below the salt, eight thought there was a hangover, 16 thought there was and eight didn't know. Asked what might make them feel the older professions were still better than industry, 'better job security' ranked as the most important factor."

Taking first and second choices into account, sixteen of the boys (no fools, these Harrow lads) said they would like to become Chairman of a £50 million electronics group; 12 opted for Chairmanship of a £50 million Coventry machine tool firm with 50 per cent exports; 11 saw themselves as Chairman of a £50 million group of multiple shops.

And in case you are wondering what this dissertation has got to do with our own particular industry, next in the voting list were seven lads who would like to be Chairman of the Forestry Commission!

Incidentally, there were no votes at all for the posts of Permanent Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Office, and Headmaster of Harrow.

****FANCY YOUR CHANCE?**

READERS with a flair, latent or otherwise, for administrative work; and with a fertile mind and facile pen may be interested to know that £50 and a silver medal could be theirs. Entries are invited by the Royal Institute of Public Administration for the Haldane Essay Competition, which has been held annually since 1926. In the past awards up to £30 have been made for commended essays, in addition to the major prize.

Among suitable subjects are analyses and discussions of contemporary problems in the field of both government and public administration; studies of present day administrative practices with a view to their improvement, or to a greater understanding of them; comparative studies of the administrative methods and ideas of two or more countries, of which one should be a member of the British Commonwealth; and studies of the history and development of government and public administration.

The rules are simple. Entries should be between 7,500 and 12,500 words and longer entries will not be considered. Be careful to type on foolscap paper, one side only, double spacing with a wide margin. Submit under a nom-de-plume and put your full name and address on a separate sheet of paper in a sealed envelope, writing the nom-de-plume on the outside. Send your essay by not later than 31st October, 1967, to the Director, Royal Institute of Public Administration, 24 Park Crescent, London, W.1.

Conveniently, the major award corresponds to the current sterling travel allowance; so if you want a holiday abroad, here is your chance to pay for it.

****GOING TO MUNICH**

THOSE of us who have grown grey in the service of the Commission and to whom, consequently, the passage of time seems over-swift, will find it hard to realise it is 14 years since the I.U.F.R.O. conference was held in this country, at Oxford. The thought is prompted by the fact that details are now being made known of the latest of these conferences; this will be held in Munich from 4th-9th September this year and the Commission participants will be Mr. R. F. WOOD, Mr. J. N. R. JEFFERS and Mr. ROGER LINES, all representing Research; and Dr. F. C. HUMMEL, Mr. P. A. WARDLE and Mr. R. T. BRADLEY, representing Management Services.

If, in Munich, there is a counterpart of the Lamb and Flag at Oxford, then the success of the conference, from the social side, is assured!

****THE 1969 EXHIBITION**

DATES for the 1969 Exhibition, which is to be a major feature of events to commemorate the Commission's 50th anniversary and will be held on the Bush Estate, near Edinburgh, have now been finally decided upon. Here they are: 5th, 6th and 7th June, 1969. A long while is yet to elapse before this event but planning is well in hand.

****THE SPRINGTAIL**

LAST month Head Forester HOLLOWELL, Slebech Nursery, South Wales, virtually claimed first recording of the Springtail, saying that this pest "first entered my life" in the spring of 1960. Now Mr. ARTHUR CADMAN, Deputy Surveyor, New Forest, points out that a serious Springtail attack developed in Clwyd Nursery, North Wales, in the early 1950's. This was supposed to be the first known record of attack in any Commission nursery.

Someone, somewhere, holds the key to records which should settle once and for all any doubts as to when the Springtail first introduced itself to the Commission. Any further comment?

****ARE YOU A WATER DIVINER?**

NONE would deny that some of our staff are envied for their extra sensory powers which enable them even in unfamiliar country to divine the nearest hostelry. This, in a sense, is what you might call another version of water divining, depending upon the gravity of the liquid they are seeking.

But it happens (so we are told on good authority) that the ranks of the Forestry Commission have within them many who are bona fide water diviners. Whether divining is a gift, an art or due to a sensitivity not given to us all, we would not know. One who can find water when he wants it, or at least trace its existence, is Mr. MORLEY PENISTAN, Assistant Conservator, South West England. "One of the Commission's best diviners", he says, "was the late ARTHUR BEARD, formerly Head Forester at Dymock. I discovered an aptitude for divining during a Society of Foresters' tour of Clipstone, which is now incorporated with Sherwood Forest. I found a hazel twig of the right size, walked round the forest ride and before long it was twitching. The forks of the twig need to be about 15 inches long and these you hold with the palms up and the fingers firmly around them".

We shall be pleased to hear from readers who are diviners and who may have had some unusual experiences.

****THE ONCE WILD WEST**

AMONG those who knew the wild cattle of Lochgoilhead is Mr. KENNETH TOWNSEND, District Officer stationed at Huntly, Aberdeenshire. Reminiscing about his service in West Scotland, he recalls being posted there nearly 20 years ago as assistant to Mr. PETRIE, District Officer at Benmore. "One day," he says, "I walked the marches east of the Rest and Be Thankful and remember, vividly, my disturbing a golden eagle in the heather and getting a fairly close view of the wild cattle. These were in little groups of all ages and sexes amounting to 50 to 60 beasts; all stood entirely still and watched me and their regard was fixed and concentrated. I kept well clear of them but the wild setting and atmosphere are unforgettable, even to this day. Later in the year, at a stores check, the owner and grazier arrived and beguiled us with stories, one of which involved his running for dear life after having to give a wild bull both barrels of his 12 bore and then throwing the gun away."

****PERSONAL**

BELATED but sincere good wishes to the former Miss LYNNE ORAM, Scientific Assistant at Alice Holt Lodge, on her marriage to Mr. DAVID ELGY, Forester attached to the Mammals Section at the research station. The couple are making their home in Alton.

Congratulations, also, to Miss B. B. MACNIVEN, Executive Officer, Harvesting and Marketing Section at Glasgow, on her recent wedding! apart from a spell in the York office, all her service has been in the West Scotland Conservancy office.

And to Mr. R. (BOB) AFFLECK, Senior Executive Officer, Savile Row and Mrs. AFFLECK (formerly Miss JOYCE PRIEST, of the Education Branch) on the birth of a second daughter, Susan Jane. Also to Mr. D. W. BENOY, Executive Officer, Aberdeen, and Mrs. BENOY, on the arrival of a daughter. Before her marriage Mrs. BENOY (then Miss D. A. LOGAN) was a Clerical Officer in the Glasgow office.