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INCREASED PLANTING IN SCOTLAND

IT was recently announced by the Prime Minister at a conference in Glasgow that there is to be a substantial increase in our planting in Scotland from 1969 onwards. The present annual rate is somewhat more than 30,000 acres a year, and the White Paper on Scottish Economy, published in January last year, announced an increase to 36,000 acres a year from 1969; now comes the news that planting will rise to 50,000 acres a year by 1976. This, it was stated, is "of particular importance as a long-term investment".

In 1966, in the programme then announced, the emphasis was on increasing planting in the seven crofting counties to 20,000 acres a year. The Government, it is stated, remain of the view that forestry is vital to the welfare of the Highlands and the emphasis on afforestation in the crofting counties will continue. There is, however, scope for further expansion in the upland areas on the fringe of the Highland counties and in the southern uplands which are conveniently situated to wood-using industries.

**PROMOTIONS TO SENIOR POSTS

IT is announced that Dr. D. H. PHILLIPS is to be promoted to Senior Principal Scientific Officer and will carry out the duties of the Conservator post in Research Division at present occupied by Mr. R. F. WOOD, who will be retiring at the end of this month.

Mr. G. D. HOLMES is to be promoted to Conservator and will take up a new post in Research Division at Edinburgh. The effective date of this appointment is likely to be 1st February next year.

Following a recent board, promotion to the rank of Assistant Conservator has been authorised in respect of the following: Mr. N. BANISTER, SW(E); Mr. R. E. CROWTHER, Dean; Mr. R. M. HEWITT, H.Q., London; Mr. D. Y. M. ROBERTSON, H.Q., London (P. & E.); and Mr. K. P. THALLON, SE(E).

**OFF TO INDIA

LEAVING at the end of the month for New Delhi and the Ninth Commonwealth Forestry Conference is our Director General, SIR HENRY BERESFORD-PEIRSE, who is Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Conference. He will be joined in India for the Conference by Mr. J. A. DICKSON, Commissioner for Harvesting and Marketing, Mr. S. A. NEUSTEIN (Research, Edinburgh) and Mr. J. A. GRAYSON (Economist), who will be spending three months in India on an assignment for the Ministry of Overseas Development. Another Commission officer attending the Conference will be Miss M. J. EDEN, who is Secretary of the Standing Committee.

The Conference starts on 3rd January and continues until 27th of the same month. All the participants will visit certain forests and the well known Research Institute at Dehra Dun and will also see something of forests in the State of Rampur. Additionally, there will be two main conference tours, one in the south and the other the east. The former will take in forest areas in Bangalore, Coimbatore, Ooty and Mysore; the second, which will be of particular interest to forest products specialists, will include a paper mill in Calcutta and forests where cultivation is mainly in connection with minor forest products. There will be night stops at Hassimara, Sukna, and Darjeeling.

In addition to the Commission officers, the Conference will be attended by Mr. T. A. OXLEY, Director of Forest Products Research Laboratory; Professor MALCOLM LAURIE, Commonwealth Forestry Institute at Oxford; and Mr. J. J. LAWRIE, Secretary of the Commonwealth Forestry Association.

****RETIREMENTS**

FROM West Scotland Conservancy comes news of the retirement of Head Forester

ALASTAIR CAMERON and Forester D. J. MACKAY.

The former's name will always be associated with the big Strathyre Forest, in Perthshire, which covers more than 11,000 acres, with the best part of 7,000 acres under trees. This forest he started in 1935; it is much admired within the Commission for its fine silviculture and by tourists for its wonderful variety and scenic appeal. Mr. Cameron was made an M.B.E. in June of last year. A farewell dinner was held at Callander recently in his honour and the Conservator, Mr. G. G. STEWART, said that forestry in Scotland owed much to Mr. Cameron and to his father, who had started the famous Corrour plantations on Loch Ossian when serving the late Sir John Stirling Maxwell. Everyone, said Mr. Stewart, was sorry to see Alastair Cameron retire but he had had an exceptionally full and creative life; it was good to know that he would continue to live in his old house at Strathyre and to tend his famous garden, which gave much pleasure to thousands of visitors each year.

Mr. Cameron was presented with a camera by his colleagues, and Mrs. Cameron with a tea trolley.

Forester D. J. Mackay

A party of more than 100 guests was led by the Duke of Argyll's personal piper into the dining room of the Loch Gair hotel, Argyll, where tributes were paid to Mr. MACKAY. He and Mrs. Mackay were the recipients of a record player and a substantial cheque from friends and colleagues, the presentation being made by Mr. T. A. ROBBIE, Assistant Conservator. There followed an excellent "Ceilidh" until the early hours of the morning.

Mr. Mackay spent much of his career in charge of Asknish forest and hopes to spend his retirement in the district.

Mr. O. C. Davies

After 48 years in forestry, Mr. O.C. DAVIES, forest worker in the Dean, has also retired. His family has been connected with forestry in these old Crown woods for 400 years. He himself was born at Howbeach in 1906 and in 1919 he commenced work for the old Office of Woods. A presentation to him was made by Mr. R. E. CROWTHER, District Officer, on behalf of fellow workers, and among those present were Head Forester W. D. WESTACOTT. Other recent retirements in the Dean were of Mr. FRANK MORSE and Mr. CHARLIE LEWIS who, for 27 and 23 years respectively, had been employed by the Commission on estate maintenance.

****MORE ON FOREST NAMES**

OUR piece last month about forest names is commented upon by a reader as follows: "Achnashelach has no 'i' in the spelling and is in N(S), not W(S) as stated". This forest we mentioned as having one of the longest names. We take the reader's point that we put the forest in the wrong place but would add that neither he nor we got the spelling correct! It is, of course, Achnashellach.

Our correspondent goes on: "South Yorkshire Forest, NW(E) and Eddleston Water, S(S) both have 14 letters, the same as Clashindarroch". This latter we gave as runner-up among the longest-named forests. We would step in to point out to the reader that he has slipped a little here, for South Yorkshire is in North East England. "Elibank and Traquair, S(S) has 18 letters thus easily beating Clatteringshaws". (We made the point, however, that we were considering only single names). "Long, NW(E) and Lynn, E(E) are other four-lettered names that you missed".

Mr. W. A. CADMAN, Deputy Surveyor, New Forest, writes: "We were all interested in your note. You seem to have forgotten that New would have provided you with the shortest name in England. It is nearly a thousand years since the ancient 'Ytene' was abandoned for the present name of three letters.

"Incidentally, nearly all the first of our forests in North Wales were named after the principal rivers - a pleasant form of nomenclature".

****MEET FFANI LLOYD**

SOMEONE no doubt knows the number of horses which are still working in Commission forests, despite the onset of mechanisation. Here, however, we make a claim on behalf of FFANI LLOYD, who does her stint in Dovey Forest, North Wales, to be the oldest horse still playing a part in our production programmes. Ffani, in fact, was 35 last May and has worked in the forest for 30 years, probably hauling out close on a million trees. She is owned by Mr. Idwal Lewis, a skilled forest worker and our tenant of Llwydiarth Farm, Dovey, since 1927. He joined Ffani in a recent newspaper interview. "There's been no horse like her," he is reported as saying. "She's only been ill once in her life. A man and horse are better than a tractor and winch to get the trees out; you need two men with a winch, only one with a horse. But you can't get the horsemen today. Many a time Ffani has tripped in the undergrowth with her load. 'Paidr symud', I'd say. And stay there she does, until I release the harness. She's human, that horse. She's never kicked in her life. Though, like all women, she needs attention. If ever I'm out of sorts she knows. And if she's out of sorts, I know. 'Good old Ffani', I'll say, you've got to butter her along. Other times you can just bawl 'Lloyd', and down she'll come from the hill."

If ever horses disappear altogether from the forest, somehow it will be a sad, sad day. But pending that eventuality readers may be able to tell us whether there is an older horse than Ffani still picking his or her way down the hillside with a load of logs.

****LIGHTER SIDE OF THE QUIZ**

FORESTRY Quizzes, arranged by our local staff at several major agricultural shows, prove extremely popular, with hundreds of school children of all ages striving hard to gain a Young Forester's badge. Mr. N. BANISTER, who has been closely associated with such competitions at the Bath and West show, sends us extracts from a quiz paper credited to I. N. EARNEST; School, Eton:

Question. Name three qualities that a SEED tree must have.

Answer. Have Cones
Branches
Be Alive

Question. Why are seedling trees moved to transplant lines?

Answer. To make room for the Forester's potatoes.

Question. When you lift a heavy weight, which should do more work - your arms or your legs?

Answer. Your arms, because it is difficult to grip hold of weights with your legs.

Question. There is a small gate in the demonstration plantation fence, who uses this? (Answer: Badger).

Answer. Poachers.

Question. How does the Forester prevent fungus spreading in his forest?

Answer. By keeping the gates closed.

Question. What good does a shelterbelt do to a farm?

Answer. Holds up the washing.

Question. What would you do if you saw a forest fire?

Answer. Shoot back.

If Mr. Earnest is known to any reader of The Slasher, please ask him to forward his home address to the Taunton Office, whereupon Mr. Banister will arrange for the formal presentation of his badge.

****HELP FOR MISSING FLYER**

POLICE all over the west of Scotland were alerted when a small single-engined plane on a flight from Iceland failed to make a scheduled landing at Abbotsinch. But if the plane was considered missing, it was very much in evidence so far as Mr. IAN MacRAE, Chief Forester at Glenbranter was concerned, for as he was driving home it screamed overhead and made a forced landing in a nearby field.

Mr. MacRae stopped and ran into the field, where he met the pilot, one Everett Hughes, who was in the course of making a solo flight across the Atlantic; he left Austin, Texas a week previously and had stopped at Newfoundland, Labrador, Greenland and Iceland. Short of fuel, he had had to land in the field. Mr. MacRae helped him to stock up with fuel obtained from a nearby garage but the long grass prevented a take-off, with the result that for an hour the two men were engaged on trampling the grass flat. At the second attempt the plane soared off. If, apart from the need always to keep one's fuel supply to a reasonable level, there is a moral to this story it is that our foresters seem to meet any emergency.

****KEY RING WANTED?**

MOST foresters who have used the celluloid Yield Class tables to determine the volume per acre in thinning operations will have wondered where to put the nine tables that are not in use. Held together with a large brass screw they can only be moved in a circle. Some time ago, goes on Chief Forester JACK JENNINGS, I came across two foresters each holding his set of tables spread out like a hand of cards and when I suggested they refrain from telling fortunes or playing crib they explained that they were in fact just checking basal areas and that something ought to be done with that brass screw.

The answer to this problem is a key ring an inch or so in diameter. When threaded on to this the tables that are not in use hang conveniently over the back of the hand. I put this forward as a useful field hint to anyone who has not already discovered it for himself.

****GOLF OUTING**

SOUTH SCOTLAND reports a golf outing to Moffat. Fifteen players braved atrocious weather and the Fotheringham Trophy was won by Mr. A. A. COWAN (Dumfries office) on the strength of a better inward half score after a tie with Mr. D. A. T. DOUGLAS (P. & E., Edinburgh) and Mr. F. McNICOL (Wauchope Forest). Mr. Douglas took the scratch prize!

****SOME NEW BOOKLETS**

THREE booklets have recently been published which will be of interest to many of our readers. These are Roads in the Landscape, Ministry of Transport, HMSO, 4s.; Trees for the Farmer, CPRE, 86, Newland, Lincoln, 2s. 6d.; and Predatory Mammals in Britain, Council for Nature, Zoological Gardens, Regents Park, London, N.W.1, 5s.

These booklets have two things in common. First, the Commission have been involved in the preparation of all of them. Roads in the Landscape is written by Mr. Clough Williams-Ellis, a distinguished architect and a founder member of the Committee on the landscaping of trunk roads which advises the Ministry. We have a permanent representative on this committee, originally Mr. C. A. J. BARRINGTON, Conservator, S.E. England, and now Mr. P. F. GARTHWAITE. All major road schemes are discussed by the committee and the proposed tree planting carefully examined along with proposals for earth works and other landscaping features. The Commission act as agents to the Ministry for these schemes, supplying many of the trees and carrying out much of the planting.

This particular booklet is of additional interest because it traces the historical development of roads in this country and also contains some first class photographs of their landscape treatment.

Mr. J. D. LEEFE, District Officer, East England is one of the editors of Trees for the Farmer and has written the technical chapters. Where the booklet on predators is concerned, the Commission were represented as assessors on the working group which produced the publication, and valuable suggestions were made by field staff to whom the draft was sent before reaching the final stage.

The second point these publications have in common is that all are the result of co-operation of previously conflicting or at least antipathetic interests or professions. The Civil Engineer, the landscape architect and the horticulturalist; the forester, the farmer, the landowner and the preservationist; the sportsman, the gamekeeper, the naturalist and the land manager: these groups have worked together to produce respectively the booklets that reflect their joint knowledge and interests. This is quite something.