

THE SLASHER

**FORESTRY
COMMISSION**
News & Views

Issued by
**INFORMATION
OFFICER**

No. 241

January, 1968

FAREWELL TO SIR HENRY

ON his last day at Savile Row before leaving for the Commonwealth Forestry Conference in India and thereafter entering retirement, our Director General, SIR HENRY BERESFORD-PEIRSE, was presented with a cheque from Commission staff. The ceremony was performed by Mr. JOHN DICKSON, who is shortly to succeed Sir Henry.

Although Sir Henry has written to Conservators, asking them to express his thanks to contributors, he has also requested us to use The Slasher to the same end. This we gladly do. Sir Henry says he appreciates the generous gift enormously and intends to use it in replacing "the old and battered doors" leading through an arch in the high brick wall surrounding his garden at Bedale with panelled double doors made of English oak. The maker, goes on Sir Henry, would be Thompson of Kilburn in Yorkshire, known as "the mouse man". This name was given to the original Thompson because he signed all his work by carving a mouse somewhere or other on each piece. This, apparently, the firm still does. On the doors would be carved a sentence to the effect that they were given to Sir Henry by the staff of the Commission. If by any chance the making of the doors could not be carried out, then his second choice would be a silver teapot.

It remains for us to wish Sir Henry the happiest of retirements and to hope that notwithstanding the fact that he proposes to spend a great deal of time at Bedale, we shall at least see him at intervals.

**A NEW COMMISSIONER

TAKING up office on the first of next month as a new Forestry Commissioner is Dr. FRED HUMMEL, to whom we offer our good wishes. He will be succeeding Mr. JOHN DICKSON as Commissioner for Harvesting and Marketing.

Dr. Hummel, who is 52, graduated from Oxford with distinction in forestry. He served for some years as a District Forest Officer in Uganda and did war service with the King's African Rifles. He joined the Commission in 1946 and in 1953 was seconded for a short period to the Cyprus Government to advise on forest management and utilisation problems. He was seconded to the Food and Agriculture Organisation in 1959 for a few months to work on a study of future demand and supply of timber in the South East Asia-Pacific region and, again on loan to FAO, from 1961 to 1966 he was in Mexico as manager of a UN Special Fund project; since 1966 he has been in charge of the Management Services Division of the Commission. He will be succeeded in that post, as Director, by Mr. J. Q. WILLIAMSON, on the latter's early return from an FAO assignment in Chile.

**PROMOTIONS

MISS J. M. DAVIES, Dr. W. H. HINSON and Mr. R. S. HOWELL, erstwhile Senior Scientific Officers, have each been promoted to Principal Scientific Officer, and consequently receive our congratulations. So, too, do the numerous colleagues who recently successfully passed the board for promotion from District Officer Grade Two to Grade One. The future whereabouts of several of these officers, as Assistant Conservators, has already been announced - Mr. R. E. CROWTHER goes from the Dean to Harvesting and Marketing, North Wales; Mr. R. M. HEWITT, Harvesting and Marketing, H.Q., will be on his way to the New Forest, where he will again be concerned with Harvesting and Marketing; and Mr. J. V. St.L. CROSLAND, hitherto with Planning and Economics, H.Q., will be taking up a new post in H.Q. Work Study.

****NEW YEAR HONOURS**

WE were delighted to see several Commission names in the recent New Year Honours List.

Mr. TOM TAYLOR, who has been a Commissioner since 1960 has been made a life peer. He is President of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society and has travelled widely abroad as the Society's Export Manager. He was for some years a member of the Glasgow City Council. Mr. FRED SELLERS, a Commissioner until his recent retirement, and formerly a member of the Home Grown Timber Advisory Committee, was appointed a C.B.E.; he played a leading part in the post war development of the home timber trade and the forest industry generally.

OUR colleague WALTER WATSON, S.E.O. in the office of the Deputy Surveyor, New Forest, has become an M.B.E.; during his long service in the New he has effectively dealt with the many difficult and intricate problems which arise in the administration of this particular area.

Mr. WILLIAM FAIRBURN, Chief Forester at Devilla, has also been appointed an M.B.E. Apart from managing the forest with considerable skill, he has pioneered heathland nursery techniques. His nursery now covers some 30 acres and in addition to managing this he has been responsible since 1956 for Tulliallan nursery.

Mr. FRANCIS JAMES JOHNSTON, Senior Clerk of Works in the South Scotland Conservancy, was awarded the British Empire Medal. He has served the Commission for 20 years and his contribution to the work of the Conservancy has been outstanding. He played a large part in developing the design of a locally built house which was eventually adopted virtually as the standard modern house for Foresters in South Scotland.

****ANOTHER TRIBUTE TO "BOB" WOOD**

WRITING from Alice Holt Lodge, Mr. MICHAEL BROWN says: "Mr. Wood would have made his mark in any sector of forestry. Nevertheless, he possessed the two essential qualities of the scientist - an enquiring mind and humility, which recognised that no set of results necessarily embodied the whole truth. Our country needs more Robert Woods in its service; we at the Research Station may count ourselves lucky that we enjoyed the loyal rich humour, service and wise counsel of one for these 20 years. We wish Bob Wood and Mrs. Wood many joyful years in retirement".

****RETIREMENTS FROM FOREST AND OFFICE**

COLLEAGUES assembled in the Verderers' hall of the Queen's House at Lyndhurst to bid farewell to Mr. JOSEPH LIDDELL, Chief Forester, who has retired after 41 years' service with the Commission, 20 of these being spent in the New Forest as Utilisation Officer. A gift to Mr. Liddell took the form of a pair of binoculars, handed to him on behalf of wellwishers by Mr. ARTHUR CADMAN, Deputy Surveyor. "Joe" Liddell, as he is affectionately called, became well known in the Commission as the "telegraph pole expert". His prowess in that field could be judged by the fact that of the many thousands of poles prepared under his direction, few indeed were rejected by the G.P.O. inspectors.

Joe Liddell commenced his forestry career at Chopwellwood in 1926 and entered the Dean School the following year. On passing out he went to Thorthwaite and Ennerdale until seconded to the Timber Production Department in the war. Until recently he took an active interest in sport and was prominent in the Commission's New Forest cricket team. He is an ardent supporter of "The Saints" and although he has retired to the Wye Valley, he is determined to visit Southampton as often as he can.

Head Forester PERCY YAPP, another well known figure, has also retired with 41 years' service. He joined the Commission as a Forest Worker at Mortimer, was promoted to Ganger and then spent five years in forests in West Wales - there is a Yapp's path at Rheidol to commemorate his name. In 1935 he went to Radnor Forest as Foreman-in-charge and remained there until his retirement. A cheque from colleagues was presented to Mr. Yapp by the Conservator, Mr. JOHN JAMES, at the end of a Foresters' tour of Radnor. "This simple ceremony took place among the 70 ft. spruces," writes a correspondent. "It might well have been said of Percy Yapp, as it was of Wren, 'if you seek his monument, look around you'".

Mr. TOM DALGLEISH, Senior Superintendent of Works in West Scotland, has left us. He came to the Commission in 1948 as a road foreman, after serving with the T.P.D. from 1939. He was promoted Superintendent of

Works in 1949 and worked in South Scotland for the following 10 years, after which he went to West Scotland, working mainly in the Cowal area and, latterly, Cairnbaan. It is of special interest that, while on secondment for a time to North Scotland, he built the pier at Glenhurich. At the Cairnbaan Hotel, Mr. Dalgleish was presented with an electric drill and a cheque by the Conservancy Engineer, Mr. J.V. DISHINGTON, on behalf of colleagues.

From forest to office. Mr. GORDON JACKSON, erstwhile Executive Officer at Drumnafries, has also joined the ranks of the retired, after 18 years' service. Our correspondent writes: "Many, particularly in Scotland, will have memories of Gordon from his audit days from 1954-57. He was a well-liked, unassuming and placid person. He will be missed in the Drumnafries office. As a token of their appreciation and best wishes the office and field staffs presented him with an electric drill and accessories".

**TWO R.H.S. MEDALS WON

THE Royal Horticultural Society's Veitch Silver Medal and a cheque for £50 have been awarded to Head Forester E. LEYSHON for the high standard of work he has carried out at Westonbirt Arboretum. A correspondent writes: "Mr. Leyshon has shown a remarkable aptitude for the intensive, detailed and skilful arboricultural work required at Westonbirt and there is no doubt he has set a high standard over the past 10 years".

For the first time the Commission exhibited recently at one of the Royal Horticultural Society's shows - and won the Lindley Silver Medal! Throughout the period of the show the Commission display was crowded. Seventy species of cones and branches were exhibited, including a 7 ft. branch of *Pinus muricata* with 15 whorls of cones; a large spray of *Tsuga heterophylla* studded with many hundreds of cones; a rich green bunch of *Athrotaxis* sprinkled with cones of yellow and orange; a big shoot of Westonbirt's Holford pine with open cones on side-shoots, and two new, green, resin-silvered cones at the tip. This latter was prominently placed and was contributed by Mr. Leyshon.

Mr. ALAN MITCHELL, of Alice Holt Lodge, who played a considerable part in organising the exhibit, says: "Credit largely belongs to Mr. A. W. WESTALL of Bedgebury, who procured in one day all the species from which the final selection was made; to Head Forester TOM WILKINSON, whose show expertise and indefatigable work was invaluable; and also to Mr. PETER HOWARD, who assisted him."

**NORTHERWOOD HOUSE CLUB

THE rules of the Northerwood House Social Club stipulate that two Committee members must be elected annually. At present there is an additional vacancy to be filled.

Miss M.A.E. FROST, H.E.O. at H.Q. London; Mr. H. W. GULLIVER, A.& F.O., S.E. England; and Mr. E. G. WINTERFLOOD, District Officer, New Forest, have agreed to stand for election. Other nominations, accompanied by the names of two permanent members of the Club - that is of any member of the non-industrial grades down to H.E.O. and Head Forester (or analogous grades in other classes) - should be made to the Education and Training Branch, Basingstoke, by 15th February, 1968.

If no other nominations are received by that date Miss Frost, Mr. Gulliver and Mr. Winterflood will be regarded as elected.

**THE BLOODSTAINED HIGHLANDERS

TOURISTS passing through Fort Augustus must have thought the '45 was still going on when they saw up to 40 Redcoats in the village (writes Mr. J.J.R. MARNIE, District Officer). Their surprise, however, was nothing to that of a lady motorist who put her car in the ditch while passing a locally hired bus - for out of this streamed a motley collection of bare-footed, bare-legged, blood-stained Highlanders dressed in rags. Without a word they surrounded the lady's car and lifted it bodily back on to the road, with the lady still inside. They, along with the Redcoats, were extras for the Scottish Television filming of D. K. Broster's "Flight of the Heron".

While there was no actual filming on our land, the Commission did have a hand in constructing some of the props - in particular the mock stockade used in the battle scenes in the siege of Fort William. This was made of Lawson cypress thinnings. So, those of you who are lucky enough to receive Scottish Television programmes can look in some time this year and, seeing the stockade, reflect that all produce is saleable with a slice of luck, and someone may be just around the corner with a lucrative and surprise opening for your LC.

Is anyone thinking of filming the Great Wall
of China - in wood?

****MORE ABOUT FOREST NAMES**

OUR recent comment on forest names is revived by several readers. Last month a contributor said the pronunciation of Achaglachgach should be A'ha'gla'ga. "West Scotland Conservancy", writes a reader, "says let's get Achaglachgach correct. It is made up from: Achadh (Āchā), a cornfield newly cut; glāc (glachg), a hollow or dell (actually the hollow of the land); ach (āch), a qualifying suffix. It should be written Achadhglacach and pronounced Achā glāchg āch, the ch's probably not so guttural as low-land Scots. It means in fact the field of many hollows.

One contributor last month speculated that the name Mildmay, one of our forests in West Kent, could have been derived from "mild", i.e. "sheltered" "Mea(dow)". Not so. The forest is named after the late Lord Mildmay of Flete. Acquisition negotiations were commenced with his lordship before his untimely death (he was drowned while swimming from a west country coast) and the purchase was concluded afterwards. It was decided, with the concurrence of Lord Mildmay's sister, that his name be perpetuated in the district by so naming the forest. Incidentally, Lord Mildmay was a famous amateur National Hunt rider who had appallingly bad luck in almost, but not quite, winning a Grand National. To the best of our recollection, one of his horses was named Cromwell and was placed in the National on more than one occasion.

Forester D. F. ANDERSON, of Watermeetings, South Scotland, which earlier we described as a runner-up for the distinction of having the longest forest name, says: "Perhaps readers would be interested to hear of the origin of this name, which is derived from the farm which is situated near the confluence of the Daer Water and the Powtrail Water. These waters form a sizeable river which then meanders northward to be joined by a small tributary called Clydesburn. From then onwards to the sea the river takes the famous name of Clyde, passing through Clydesdale, which gives its name to another Commission forest. Visitors to Watermeetings are often in search of the true source of the Clyde and many a heated argument is heard as to which tributary has this honour.

"Many and varied, however, are the names of the hillburns which flow into the Daer and Powtrail waters and it is interesting to note that the longest is the Crookburn, which rises on Queensbury Hill not far from the bundary of the Forest of Ae. To add further confusion there is a rhyme which runs: 'Annan, Tweed and Clyde, Rise a'out o'ae hill-side', while Kenneth McKellar sings in the 'Song of the Clyde' that it 'flows from Leadhills all the way to the sea'. It is certain, however, that regardless of all the futile arguments in Watermeetings, the men of the Clyde, who built among other great ships the Queen Elizabeth II, would have their river by no other name!"

****OPENING OF NEW DEPOT**

THE new depot at Quantock Forest in Somerset was opened recently by Mr. JACK HUMPHREY, J.P., County Organiser of the National Union of Agricultural Workers, in the company of Mr. N. BANISTER, District Officer. The Conservator for South West England, Mr. C. A. CONNELL, also attended. Foot and mouth precautions meant that the ceremony was witnessed only by a small gathering, including forest staff and wives and the builder, Mr. R. C. KINGLAKE of Ilminster.

Mr. HUMPHREY and Mr. LESLIE THOMPSON, the Head Forester, crosscut their way through a Douglas fir log to symbolise the essential partnership between men and management and then the former turned the key in the door and formally declared the building open. The depot stands at the entrance to the forest and is framed by 100 ft. high Douglas fir and Sitka spruce. Before it could be constructed it was necessary to divert a stream and fill in the valley bottom. The rigid frame structure is made to the design of the Plywood Manufacturers' Association of British Columbia, using Douglas fir plywood and Western hemlock; both these species are grown at Quantock. The end walls are finished in waney-edged home grown Red cedar. The overall dimensions are 47 ft. by 32 ft. and a noteworthy feature is the way in which the gable eaves have been projected a further four feet beyond the end walls.

The building includes office accommodation for the Head Forester and his staff; mess rooms; stores for equipment and fertilisers; the tool maintenance workshops, and garage with inspection pit and small repair bay, are also housed under the one roof. The 70 ft. VHF radio mast alongside the depot bears witness to the modern approach to protection in a forest which produces large quantities of timber and attracts some 14,000 visitors a year to the forest trail and picnic site.