

The FLASHER

**FORESTRY
COMMISSION**
News & Views

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OFFICER**

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PART-TIME COMMISSIONERS

THE Queen has been pleased to approve that Alderman Edward Gwynfryn Davies, J.P.,

Major Sir Fiennes William Strang Steel, Bt., D.L., and the Lord Taylor of Gryfe be re-appointed part-time members of the Forestry Commission on the expiry of their terms of office.

Her Majesty has also been pleased to approve the appointment of Ralph Bruce Verney D.L., J.P., as part-time Commissioner in the place of the Earl of Carlisle who has completed his term of appointment.

Biographical Note. Mr. Verney who is 53, lives near Bletchley Bucks., is married with one son and three daughters. He was educated at Canford and Balliol College, Oxford and during the war served in the Buckinghamshire Yeomanry and the Berkshire Yeomanry attaining the rank of Major. Mr. Verney became a member of the Buckinghamshire County Council in 1951, Chairman of its Finance Committee in 1957 and a County Alderman in 1961. Following a period as High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire in 1957-58, Mr. Verney was appointed as Deputy-Lieutenant in 1960 and High Steward of Buckinghamshire in 1966. He was President of the County Landowners Association in 1962-63. Mr. Verney is a private woodland owner of note and is a very active member of the T.G.O.

We offer him a warm welcome to the Forestry Commission.

COMMISSIONERS' TOUR IN N.W.(E)

ON 22nd and 23rd October our Commissioners paid a visit to various forests in N.W.(E).

The most interesting tour which had been arranged by Mr. J.S.R. Chard - Conservator N.W.(E) amply showed the many new projects which forestry in Great Britain now undertakes.

On 22nd the Old Pale Nursery was visited where are raised the many varieties of hard-woods required for planting, as agents for the Ministry of Transport, on the M6 Motorway. This new field of nursery work has produced its problems but it could be seen how well these had been overcome. After a good tea at the Forest Office the party moved off to look at Delamere Forest, which being so close to Manchester and Liverpool, is a strong attraction to the public with all the problems such pressure brings in the way of car parking, sanitation, access etc. These are all under active and amicable consideration jointly with the Local Council. Throughout this day's tour the District Officer - Mr. J.R. Fletcher, Head Forester E. Waddelove and Foresters T.J. Attenborough and C.A. Bollend were at hand with ready help and information.

On the 23rd the Commissioners first visited two planting sites on the M6 Motorway. At the first Head Forester E. Waddelove compared the planting of standards with that of normal forest stock. Both are now growing satisfactorily but the former took a longer time to become established and even to-day have a somewhat ragged and windswept appearance. These have the advantage of providing an immediate effect but smaller trees are likely to give better results in the long run. At Walton's Wood M6 planting site Head Forester J. R. MacMillan reported on the considerable difficulties which were there encountered in planting due to the compacted and disturbed nature of the soil due to methods of motor-way construction in this very wet and steep terrain.

The tour then continued to Cannock Forest to see there a combination of profitable timber production with recreation and amenity. During an inspection of the Deer Museum at the Forest Centre (shortly to be augmented by a Forest Museum in Jubilee Year), Head Stalker G. D. Springthorpe gave a lucid talk on the deer population of the Forest and its control. After a welcome buffet lunch the party was conducted by Mr. P.A.W. Overell (District Officer), Chief Forester L.G. Morgan, Head Forester D. Hall, Foresters D.W. Astell, W.H.S. Tyler and G.H. McGowan and Trainee Forester J.M. Charlton on a tour of the various activities in the Forest which emphasised the dual purpose of it. The tour ended at the High Seat which is becoming a popular feature for naturalists and country lovers.

Throughout an enjoyable and interesting tour the Commissioners were accompanied by Mr. J.S.R. Chard, Mr. W.J. Raven (Land Agent) Mr. D. Grant (Harvesting and Marketing Officer) Mr. P.M. Legard (Forest Management Officer) and Mr. L.A. Chaplin (A. & F.O.) whose arrangements and help were greatly appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO THE CIVIL SERVICE

THE Civil Service is a favoured target for uninformed and critical comment by the Press.

It is with pleasure therefore that we re-print the following extract from a speech by the Governor of the Bank of England at the Mansion House, Thursday 17th October 1968.

"Finally, in the year of the Fulton Report, may I take a most unusual step and say a word in praise of civil servants, among whose ranks I do not figure, despite what newspapers may sometimes tell you. The great cry these days is that we all should be more professional, yet I can never remember a time when there were more amateurs telling the professionals how to do their jobs. For a large part of my more than 40 years in the Bank I have worked closely with civil servants at all levels. Indeed, I would judge that my experience of them from the outside is the equal of that of most people. Maybe I have been privileged to work with the best of them; I can only say that I hold them in the greatest admiration - even when I disagree with them, which from time to time I do. Their professionalism is, of course, in the art and practice of government. If politicians did not have this behind them they could not effectively apply their policies. Civil servants are not professionals in all the various walks of life on which they impinge. It would be impossible for them to be so, and even if possible I doubt whether it would be desirable. They should naturally know enough of the outside world and maybe more than they do now. But anyone who thinks that our Civil Service would be better run by a collection of practical businessmen has very little idea of the qualities and professional experience which it requires. No doubt the Service could be improved. There is hardly any aspect of our life in this country which could not be. For my part I feel that if all other parts were as good as the Civil Service, and equally uncomplainingly worked only half as hard, many of our present troubles would quickly disappear.

In short, I would like to endorse the words of Peter de Blois, Archdeacon of Bath towards the end of the 12th century, who said, "I do not condemn the life of civil servants, who even if they cannot have leisure for prayer and contemplation, are nevertheless occupied in the public good and often perform works of salvation."

SIR HENRY BERESFORD-PEIRSE

THE following was extracted from a letter recently received from our recently retired

Director General who is now working for F.A.O. in Taiwan in the Republic of China.

"F.A.O. asked me at short notice to take on the job of Project Manager of this 4 year project for the development of forestry and forest industries over the whole country. The first Project Manager died, the next one had to go back to Canada; I have to gather up the threads, do a good deal of work on forest management and organisation and write the final report. The project ends next June, but I shall have to spend some time in Rome after that. The "experts" who make up the team are and have been exclusively Canadian or U.S., with one German concerned with forest products research. Besides general matters of forest policy and management we are looking at forest industries, of which there are many, import and export of wood and wood products, genetics, logging, marketing - in fact just about everything! This is anything but an under-developed country and in the Far East is second only to Japan in its standard of living; it has reached this stage because of massive U.S. aid, but this aid is now tailing off and Taiwan is just about viable on its own.

The people are most friendly, very hard working and mostly literate. The Forest Service is good, reasonably well trained and are nice people to work with. But they have some formidable forestry problems. About half the country is forest on the very steep and rugged central ridge of mountainous country. Every yard that is not too steep (and some that is) is cultivated in some way. The rest, the forests, consist of mixed tropical and sub-tropical hardwoods often very poor and with a negligible rate of growth. The higher mountains carry conifers, all over mature, but some areas grow the native Cypress whose wood earns fantastic prices in Japan for use in building, fine plywood etc. and for housing, largely because neither insects nor fungi attack the wood.

The problem, since the forests are in very broken, rocky precipitous country, is to bring these overmature forests into use - some are 1,000 years old - and replace them with faster growing plantations. The country rises very suddenly from the coastal plains to some 12,000 feet and is cut by deep gorges often several thousand feet deep. It is a loggers nightmare, but for a visitor some of the most spectacular country one could find anywhere. Some has been opened up by forest roads, but much is still totally inaccessible. Fortunately the Forest Service has 2 helicopters which carry 6-8 people. I have just returned from my first field trip largely by "chopper". One flies right down in the deep gorge and gets a wonderful view of the varied old natural forest and the new plantations which have followed the logging - some very successful especially *Cryptomeria Japonica* and *Cunninghamia*. There is also a native *Tsuga* and several pines and other species. In fact quite a rich native forest flora. Taking account of all sorts of forest there is some 5 million acres."

HE'S A CHAMPION

JOHN LAMONT a skilled production worker in Benmore Forest W.(S), is now British Singles Bowling Champion. Following his victory in the Scottish Championships he won the British title at Bourneville Birmingham, defeating the Welsh champion 21-11, and in the final against the Irish champion winning by 21 shots to 10. John now has the opportunity of representing Scotland in the Empire games and if successful there competing in the World Championships.

In all his matches leading up to the final he met only one player who, like himself, used wooden bowls. All others used composition bowls. Those he uses are 23 years old and were made in Glasgow by the firm of Thomas Taylor. The timber used, *Lignum Vitae*, is imported from San Domingo in the West Indies in 4 feet lengths with 6" - 8" diameter.

BASINGSTOKE CARNIVAL

READERS of "The Slasher" may remember reading last year that the Sylvatica Sports & Social Club at Basingstoke Headquarters had achieved the distinction of winning first prize in their class in the Basingstoke Carnival Procession. This year the Club naturally felt compelled to enter again and so a small committee set about the task of choosing a theme and arranging the float.

The theme chosen this time was based on the National Anti-Litter Campaign, with special emphasis on avoidance of litter in the forest. This was depicted by four attractive 'Teddy Bears' picnicking in the woods; trying to thwart their attempts to keep the picnic site tidy, were a figure dressed to represent a heap of litter and a 'litter-bug' complete with antennae. The float was dressed to resemble part of a forest, with an abundance of forest produce: anti-litter posters were prominent on the sides.

Despite the dismal weather and frequent heavy showers of rain, the crowds lining the processional route numbered many thousands on the day of the procession. One hundred and fifty floats took part in the two miles long procession, and all concerned were delighted when, once again, the red card with the legend 'First Prize' was prominent on the Sylvatica float.

The hard work and unflagging enthusiasm of everybody connected with the float was well rewarded once more. Congratulations are due to the committee - Julia Holmes, Brian Donovan, Trevor Hall and Bob Weddell; those on the float - Jackie Hallam, Lynn Florey, Josephine Noyce, Penny Taylor, Sheila Williams and Alan Lee; Forester Pearce of Micheldever, who supplied the basic material for dressing the float; and driver Fred Wenman.

Sylvatica hope to achieve the hat-trick next year, especially as this will be the Commission's Jubilee year!

EXPO '69 - PHOTOGRAPHS REQUIRED

THE Recreation and Wild Life exhibit at the Jubilee Exhibition in Edinburgh will have displays of recreation facilities so far established. There is a great shortage of photographs of our picnic sites and camp sites which show people enjoying themselves. Can anyone lend negatives or prints for use in the exhibition? All photographs used will be acknowledged as to forest and photographer: so here is a chance to share in the great exhibition!

Please send material to Mr. M. H. Orrom, Forestry Commission, 25 Savile Row, London, W1X 2AY, who will see that it is cared for and returned in due course.

RETIREMENTS

Mr. Robin Drummond. Mr. Drummond, Assistant Conservator, Aberystwyth, retired in October after nearly 40 years service to Forestry. His career in Forestry commenced in Northern India in 1929 and he joined the Commission in 1947 after receiving the M.B.E. for special work carried out in India. After spending some years in Scotland he was seconded to Northern Ireland where he was Chief Forest Officer until 1957. He then returned to the Commission spending a short while in Cardiff and the remainder at Aberystwyth in the Welsh Directorate and, more recently, North Wales Conservancy. Many friends gathered at a social evening at the Skinners' Arms at Aberystwyth where they took the opportunity of wishing him a happy retirement. Mr. J. H. James, Conservator, presented him with a cheque which we understand will be used towards the purchase of a T.V. set and Mrs. Drummond was presented with a bouquet by Mrs. Dwyryd Townsend. Mr. Drummond is well known for his reluctance to make speeches however, his farewell speech will be long remembered by those present for the extremely amusing tales of past experiences.

Head Forester B. H. King. On 20th September, 1968 at the Women's Institute Hall in Ampfield about 40 colleagues and friends of Head Forester B. H. King of Hursley Forest S.E.(E) met on the occasion of his retirement. Mr. C. A. J. Barrington, Conservator, made a presentation and paid a warm tribute to Mr. King's 42 years faithful service, wishing him and his wife a long and happy retirement. Many men who served under Mr. King as student foresters and young foresters straight from the Forester Training Schools owe much both to his teaching and fatherly interest in their careers. He was liked by everyone with whom he worked and will be greatly missed. Mr. King thanked Mr. Barrington and all his friends for their gift, after which the assembled company enjoyed the refreshments which had been provided.

Forester Jim Watson of Clocaenog Forest N.(W) has retired after 30 years service with the Commission. He started at Clocaenog as a forest worker in September 1938. He was promoted Forester at Clocaenog in 1951. On October 18th he was the guest of his colleagues and friends at a dinner in Ruthin where he was presented with a portable radio. Mr. J. H. James, Conservator, making the presentation congratulated him on his loyal and competent service. He will be greatly missed at the forest and his many friends and colleagues will wish him and his wife a long and happy retirement.

Head Forester Harry Adams E.(E). With the retirement of Head Forester H. Adams after 50 years of forestry service in both England and Africa another chapter in the "saga of the Adams", - a forestry family of three generations from the Forest of Dean - comes to an end.

Harry Adams commenced work as a Forest Worker on February 2nd 1918 in the Forest of Dean, he later entered the Dean School of Forestry in 1922 following in the footsteps of four older brothers, three of whom are already retired. On qualifying, he was posted to Dorset where he started the Puddletown Forestry Commission area. His next move was to the Quantocks and from there to Ringwood in Hampshire. It was from here that he obtained a post under the Colonial Service as the first British Forester assigned to the Forestry Department in Uganda, which was then a British Protectorate. Here he says was his most satisfying service. He was the pioneer of anti-malarial swamp planting, having experimented with "Euclyptus Robusta" with amazing results, in as much that the Anopheles - infested swamps were, within three years, completely dry. The Medical Department who closely followed the experiment were so impressed, that they ear-marked an annual grant from their anti-

malarial funds to enable Adams to plant up all the swamps in the vicinity of Kampala, the Commercial capital of Uganda.

After twelve years in East Africa his health suffered and he was retired on medical grounds. For his work he was presented with the Coronation medal.

Since rejoining the Forestry Commission, Mr. Adams' time has been spent in the Eastern Conservancy. In total he has worked in eight counties in four Conservancies.

Harry was never more happy than when he was caught up in some discussion about forestry. He was out spoken, and never afraid to say his piece when he believed himself to be right. After all, he would say, its only for the good of Forestry. He was dedicated to his work, and many a youngster owes much to his training and guidance.

He is to retire to his beloved Forest of Dean and will live within a stones throw from the place in which he did his first day's work for the Forestry Commission. We speak for his many friends and colleagues, in wishing him and Mrs. Adams a long, happy and healthy retirement.

PROMOTIONS

WE offer our hearty congratulations to the following on their recent

Promotion:-

To Assistant Conservator (Forest) - Mr. A. S. Grayson as from 1st August, 1968 in his present post of Senior Economist in the Planning and Economics Branch of Headquarters.

To Leading Civil Engineering Assistant - Mr. J. Altingham N.(S) and Mr. R. R. T. White-Cooper S.E.(E) both with seniority from 2nd October, 1968.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS and welcome also to two new entrants to the Commission

as District Officer II - Mr. J.R.M. Dixon who goes to the New Forest and Mr. R.C.B. Johnstone to East England Conservancy.

TWICE A DEPUTY-SURVEYOR

THE mention of appointments reminds us of the fact that Mr. Alan Connell -

whose recent retirement was mentioned in our last issue, has twice held the appointment of Deputy Surveyor of the Dean. He first held it in plurality when serving in the England Directorate (then at Bristol) just after the war and secondly during his last few months of service when the amalgamation of the Dean with S.W.(E) made him "Conservator S.W.(E) and Deputy Surveyor of the Dean". In sadness, Mr. Connell would point out that the appointment was unpaid on both occasions!

ROMANCE AT ABERYSTWYTH

COULD there be something special in the sea breezes at Aberystwyth?

There have been no less than six weddings in the last few months! Our congratulations to Richard Rutherford, Derek Baylis, Barbara Griffiths (formerly Powell), Joanne Lloyd-Evans (formerly Jones), Dilys Jones (formerly Evans) and Frank Bridle.

STOP PRESS

PROMOTION congratulations also to:-

Mr. N. Banster, Mr. A. P. Mackay and Mr. A. A. Rowan on promotion to Assistant Conservators.

Forester A. Smellie and Forester E. C. Treweeks on promotion to Head Forester.

The undermentioned non-industrial staff changes have been notified during the month of September, 1968.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Name	Grade	Location	Remarks
Dixon, J.R.H.	D(F)C II	New	Through Open Comp.
Johnstone, R.C.B.	D(F)O II	E.(E)	Through Open Comp.
Scott, T.M.	D(F)O II	D.(R)	On return from Secondment to Fiji
Moysey, G.F.	Forester	S.W.(E)	On return from V.S.O.
MacLure, A.R.	Tr.Forester	N.(S)	On return from V.S.O.
Redfern, Dr. D.B.	Sen.Scientific Off.	D.(R) Alice Holt	

TERMINATIONS

Sidaway, R.M.	D(F)C II	S.W.(E)	On special leave for 1 year at Yale University.
Williams, F.J.	Hd.Forester	S.(W)	Retirement
Rickets, G.A.	Forester	S.W.(E)	Transferred to University of Oxford.
MacKellar, D.L.	Ch.Clerk of Works	W.(S)	Retirement
Newton, B.E.	Civil Eng. Asst.	N.(S)	
Cook, C.S.	E.O.	H.Q.(B)	

TRANSFERS

Name	Grade	Old	New
Holtam, B.W.	Asst. Conservator	London, H.Q.(H & M)	Edinburgh D(R) Tr. on promotion to Conservator.
Banister, N.	D(F)O I	Taunton S.W.(E)	Aberystwyth N.(W) Tr. on promotion to Asst.Conservator.
MacKay, A.F.	D(F)O I	Dingwall N(S)	London H.Q.(H & M) Tr. on promotion to Asst.Conservator
Rowan, A.A.	D(F)O I	Fort Augustus H.Q. (W/S.)	London H.Q. (H & M) Tr. on Promotion to Asst.Conservator
Cameron, J.D.	D(F)O I	Neath S.(W)	Uckfield SE(E)
Hartley, A.	Hd.Forester	Knaresborough NE(E)	York P.W. NE(E)
Henderson, J.R.	Hd.Forester	Friston SE(E)	Hursley SE(E)
Aldridge, M.R.	Forester	Slebech S(W)	Glendaruel W(S)
Cauell, E.W.	Forester	Wensum I E(E)	Mundford E(E)
Christmas, S.E.V.	Forester	Broomy(New)	Brightstone(New)
Davidson, J.	Forester	Millbuie H.Q.(P & E)	Fochabers H.Q.(P & E)
Evans, D.G.	Forester	Brechfa S(W)	St. Gwyno S(W)
Fruen, C.R.	Forester	Mendip H.Q. (T.T.S.)	Brendon SW(E)
Jones, P.W.	Forester	Gwydyr N(W)	Clocaenog N(W)
McCallum, D.F.	Forester	Whitelee W(S)	Carelochhead W(S)
Mason, W.A.	Forester	Garelochhead W(S)	Kilmory H.Q. (T.T.S.)

TRANSFERS (Cont'd)

Name	Grade	Old	New
Smellie, A.	Forester	Cumbernauld W(S)	Whitelee W(S) Tr. on Promotion to Head Forester
Thompson, B.S.	Forester	Gwydyr F.T.S. H.Q. (E & T)	Achray W(S)
Thomson, W.	Forester	Edinburgh H.Q.(P & E)	Fochabers H.Q.(P & E)
Treweeks, E.C.	Forester	Goytre S(W)	Draethen S(W) Tr. on promotion to Head Forester
Clapham, P.	Tr. Forester	Bere SE(E)	London H.Q. (O & M)
MacDonald, J.Mc.	Tr. Forester	Glentrool S(S)	Newcastleton S(S)
Rees, J.W.	Tr. Forester	Achray W(S)	Ardgarden W(S)

Staff commencing or returning from service or official visits Overseas

A. Rowan	Asst. Conservator	Visit to Swedish Logging Research Foundation 2nd - 20th September.
T. G. Queen)	Forester	Demonstration and explanation of new planting
K. Davidson)	Civil Engineer	methods - N. Ireland - 16th - 20th September.
