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'More planting needed' ~ Scottish Council



All eyes on Noel Gore, enfant terrible of the curling rink, as he brushes in a well-placed curling stone at Aviemore after the Scottish division dinner dance. Dramatic story — see page eight.

NURSERY PRODUCTION ... ON UPSWING

THE FOREST tree nursery trade is beginning to gear itself again for increased production and more stable business after absorbing the double body blows of political upheaval and climatic extremes — Tilhill's Nurseries division director John White tells Tree Scribe.

The 1972 White Paper on forestry succeeded by the introduction of Capital Transfer Tax brought about a collapse of confidence in the forestry industry and annual planting rates fell off dramatically.

The nursery trade with its two to four year production cycle, depending on species, was left with surplus stocks which in many cases had to be burned, says John White.

Vicious swing

It will be remembered that nature took a vicious swing at the then slimmed down stocks in the fiery summer and long drought of 1976: 'Massive losses were experienced everywhere,' he says.

The Government finally took corrective action to restore confidence among planters through the introduction of a new grant structure in 1977 and

amendments to CTT legislation.

So now, although the pendulum has swung back to favour the forestry industry and interest in planting has been rekindled, planting stocks are in universal short supply to meet the demand through the strictures of the production cycle.

Fortunately the summer of 1977 was in total contrast to that of 1976 and the moist weather produced just the right conditions for a rare combination of both quantity and uniform quality in seedling production.

Tilhill has produced 19 million seedlings in 1977. Of these, 12 million are being transplanted in the Greenhills nursery to produce next season's saleable planting stocks. The surplus seedlings are being sold to other nurseries which are in short supply, including 1.25 million being exported to the Continent.

Good root systems

In the current 1977-78 season demand for planting stocks is at least 50% greater than the supplies available and some customers are bridging the gap

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THE SCOTTISH Council (Development and Industry) has recommended to Government that finance should be made available to achieve the highest rate of expansion of the nation's forest reserve consistent with good land use and social constraints.

In a report published recently the Council calls for a major expansion of the nation's forest resources and highlights the need to secure larger volumes of timber for industrial use, pointing out that in 1976 imports of timber and wood products totalled £2161 million.

It suggests that aid for increased planting should cover up to 90% of agreed costs in the form of grants and loans, as an option to existing fiscal incentives.

Renewable resource

Increased forest acreage would provide extra rural employment and generate a multiplier effect in other industries; it is a renewable resource which traps the energy of the sun in an easily degradable storage medium — timber — from which, amongst other things, chemical feedstocks can be derived in the future.

The need, it says, for timber imports will increase in the EEC and all signs point to an increasing worldwide shortage over the next twenty years. If recent experience of other internationally traded commodities is anything to go by, the price of timber products could quadruple relative to other prices.

Timber exporting countries will increasingly wish to process their own timber in order to add value and this will be at the cost of the importing countries.

Low percentage

The report brings out the very low percentage of land in the UK devoted to forestry (7%), which compares unfavourably with other developed countries (France 24%, Germany 30%, Japan 25%), and points out that forestry can be viable on land only marginally suited for agriculture, noting that in the UK there are 2.1 million hectares

of land suitable for planting of which 1.6 million are in Scotland.

If this land were diverted from agriculture to forestry (says the Council), this might imply a loss in agricultural production, in the absence of technical progress, of only 1.5 to 2.0% by the year 2000.

The Scottish Council draws the comparison with fishing boat skippers who can obtain

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CONTRACTS

● Central branch, Scottish division: £36,000 contract with the Dept. of the Environment at Clyde Submarine Base, Faslane, Helensburgh — involving site clearance, soiling, tree and shrub planting and grass seeding for a new accommodation block.

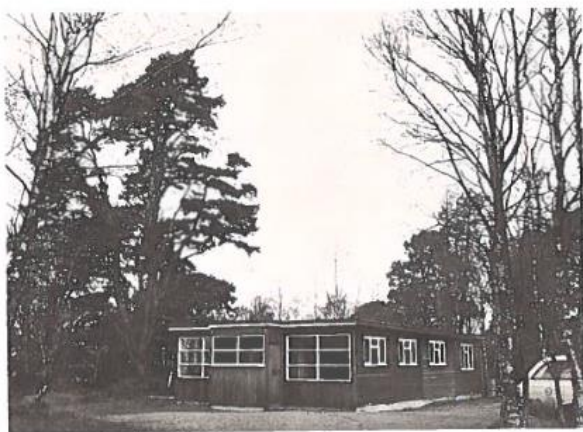
● Central branch Scottish division: £32,000 contract with Dunfermline District Council — no 7 Pit, Cowdenbeath — involving site clearance, erection of protection fencing and the supply and stockpiling of topsoil.

● Central branch Scottish division: £29,000 contract in collaboration with Brian Clouston and partners, landscape architects, with Dunfermline District Council — at Blairadam Quarry, Kelty — involving site clearance, erection of protection fencing and the supply and stockpiling of topsoil.

● East Yorkshire branch have won a tree surgery contract from the PSA at Aldborough involving surgery on a number of very large (20m) larch and various hardwoods.

● Borders branch: £9750 contract with Tyne and Wear County Council for the planting of 4000 whips and ancillary works, following a smaller Tyne and Wear Council contract last year

NORTHERN GRO 15 YEARS YOUNG



Northern branch office. A cedar clad building originally built in 1965 and now doubled in size. Framed by silver birches at the drive side and dwarfed by huge old Scots pine, it is claimed as occupying Scottish division's most attractive office site.

"THERE IS no connection between the fact our office roof is flat and our locally based high speed low flying jet aircraft" John Lambert of the Scottish division Northern branch told a Tree Scribe whose ears were still ringing from the assaults of a very recent jet-powered projectile.

But fortunately low-flying Jaguars do not affect growth rates and John has been spared to build up the Northern branch which he pioneered from its outset at the beginning of 1963. Now, having trained four assistants, who went on to become branch managers and a marketing regional manager, he can look at a much changed branch that reflects the expansion and reorganisation of the company as a whole.

At the period of greatest territorial expansion in the late '60s and early '70s John Lambert had up to four assistants and took on extra secretarial staff.

Now, with a greater turnover but smaller territory, he has two assistants, Alistair Grant and John Christison, and two experienced secretaries.

Mrs. Williamina Murray has been John's secretary since 1969 and typist Anne Archibald has been with Tilhill at Llanbryde since 1974.

Great scenic beauty

The Northern branch territory contains many areas of great scenic beauty, and for forestry it is additionally interesting because it covers varied growing conditions ranging from the relatively mild coastal belt to the more rigorous upland areas.

From the beginning in 1963 the branch became involved in growing trees for purposes not orientated wholly towards commercial timber production. In a windy part of the country, shelter is important to farmers and other land users.

One farmer, whose land included a derelict site with concrete hardstandings, once part of a wartime airfield, wanted to create woodland on it for shelter and amenity. The expense of ripping out all the concrete could not be justified so Tilhill brought in a compressor and pneumatic drill and dug out individual tree pits at low cost. Now he has a wood where once there was an eyesore.

Another 'one-off' was an even more silviculturally demanding task. At a new malting plant sited close to the shoreline at nearby Burghead, tree cover was urgently required both for landscaping reasons – to soften the long straight line of the vast building – and for practical reasons – a windbreak was required to slow down the wind, which often buffeted trucks on the weighbridge so badly that a sufficiently accurate reading was impossible.

Salt spray resistant species

John Lambert and his staff did some library research to find out what species of plants would withstand the salt spray and also studied the range of species growing nearby. Heavy reliance was placed on *Pinus nigra* for the tree storey and sea buckthorn for the shrub layer. Other species planted as minor constituents proved less successful and included whitebeam, copper beech, laburnum, gean, rowan, Monterey and Leyland cypresses and hybrid larch.

The result: an attractive industrial plant and additional information as to the performance of some tree and shrub species in adverse conditions.

But Northern branch, Tilhill's first in the north of Scotland, was founded on a forestry management base. Chairman Archie Aitkins was asked to acquire a wellwooded estate for a client in the area and purchased Sleepieshill – 312.8 ha – on his behalf. John Lambert was asked to set up Northern branch under the guidance of David Brierton with a remit to cover the whole of the north of Scotland. He is still there – Tilhill's only branch manager with continuity from 'day one'.

As expansion took place and business built up, the extent of the branch area naturally contracted as turnover increased and new offices were set up to create new branches within the territory.

The Argyll branch came in to being at a time of development of afforestation and investment on the forestry side, reflecting better land availability on the west side of the country. Central branch was formed, rationalising the southern border south of the Grampian mountains.

Highland beginning

Much more recently Highland branch was started under Peter Fitch based on nearby Inverness, leaving John Lambert with a realistically sized territory to develop further.

But to look at Sleepieshill – his first branch responsibility.

It was fully wooded except for two compartments comprising 40 ha being felled.

Situated at the eastern end of the Laich of Moray, the coastal plain between Nairn and the River Spey at Fochabers, Sleepieshill is on gently undulating terrain, has a light sandy soil and an amiable climate – surprisingly so when you consider that its latitude lies to the north of Moscow and coincides approximately with that of Southern Alaska and Northern Labrador.

But the sea, only two and a half miles from its northernmost point, has an ameliorating effect and in spite of its low rainfall – only 29 inches of rain a year – more productive species than the traditional Scots pine and European larch of the district seemed possible.

And so it has proved. Sitka spruce and Douglas fir in particular have done well where there are sites with sufficient soil moisture and fertility, doubling in production that of Scots pine.

Wildlife conservation

Interestingly one section of Sleepieshill has amenity and wildlife conservation as a prime object of management. As one crosses the Inverness-Aberdeen road southwards the commercial productive forest gives way to woodland managed for amenity, especially around Loch Oire and the adjacent houses.

Opportunities to promote forestry education in young active minds are always welcomed to help develop a sympathetic attitude to the protection of woodlands and wildlife and enable the branch to show how forestry fits in to the pattern of local land use. Pupils from nearby Llanbryde school visit the woods when doing projects on wildlife and timber utilisation.

Other estates can exhibit a more demanding range of site conditions. Near Loch Morlich at Rothiemurchus is John Lambert's largest afforestation scheme. Only three miles from the top of Cairngorm it contains land over 1300 feet pressing towards the economic tree limit.

Also in osprey country is John's smallest managed plantation at Moormore – 27 ha – which like that at Loch Morlich is protected from red deer by fencing.

Further down Speyside, Craigellachie, 438 ha, runs up to over 1250 feet and has a mixture of age classes. It again provides opportunities for the introduction of more productive species.

Industrial landscaping

But right from the early days industrial landscaping has been fostered to a point where now the balance between it and forestry operations is about 50/50. North Sea oil, says John Lambert, undoubtedly has made a big difference to the growth of landscaping in his branch.

The pressure for additional housing and schools in the Grampian region has led to a great deal of tree planting, grass-sowing and fencing work.

Interest in afforestation is growing again with recovery of confidence following the damage during the period from 1972 to 1977 by Government ambivalence towards forestry. The renewed positive Government approach has heartened the industry.

Planting land is to be found and the branch is looking to a promising future of continued development in afforestation, management, harvesting and landscaping.

WITH PATTERNS-



On Sleepieshill, a slow growing crop had been clearfelled in 1976 and the ground deep tine ploughed. With penetration to 75cm old tree roots were ripped up and a weak iron pan disrupted.

In the 1977 planting an 80% Scots pine and 20% Sitka spruce mixture was used to enable the crop to be managed for maximum volume production. Seen here is a Scots pine transplant. Good growth is expected in 1978.



Elgin Academy. Tree surgery work carried out in 1969. Callus growth now healing over the edges of a cut following the removal of a major branch from a sycamore tree.



JOHN M. CHRISTISON, assistant branch manager at Northern branch graduated with a BSc from Aberdeen last year.

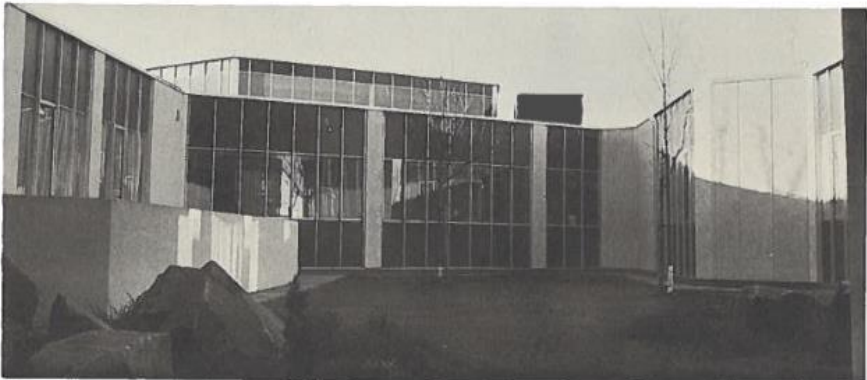
A keen camper and hill-walker, with an interest in wild life, gardening and car mechanics, he has worked on forest projects as diverse as establishment and extraction on Novar estate, Ross-shire, a survey of root development of various types of nursery stock after twenty years in the forest, and increment studies on Scots pine just below the Arctic Circle, for the University of Helsinki, Finland.



A P69 stand in this compartment already shows that spruce (centre) is a winner in the mixture, given suitable site conditions. John Lambert puts the caption on record for Tree Scribe.



Elgin Technical College. Heaths, ground cover plants and carefully selected shrubs give variety of form, texture and colour all the year round and contrast with a silver birch planted as a 7 metre tall rootballed tree.



Nairn Academy. A small courtyard grassed and landscaped showing treatment necessary to soften the simple rectangular shapes of the elevations. The ground plan of the building is on a hexagonal module.



Loch Oire, visible through the branches of a picturesque old Scots pine. The policy woodlands in this vicinity also grow European larch, occasional European silver fir, and some silver birch. The woodland is being perpetuated by planting Lawson cypress varieties, western hemlock, western red cedar and silver firs. The shrub layer is enriched with rhododendron hybrids, maples and other shrubs.

To the year



Professor John C. Bowman, Director, Centre for Agricultural Strategy

THE CENTRE for Agricultural Strategy based at Reading University, is playing a leading part in developing strategies for the optimum use of our uplands, aptly named "wet deserts" in the context of the West Highlands by Dr. Fraser Darling.

Professor John C. Bowman who directs the Centre told Tree Scribe that at a recent symposium – 'The Future of Upland Britain' – the forestry sector presented its case well with arguments that had obviously been tested and tried on critical ears and were therefore well thought out and effective.

'Principles for British Agricultural Policy' edited by Professor H.T. Williams and published in 1960 set out a framework for British agricultural policy and has undoubtedly influenced governmental decisions. The Nuffield Foundation who sponsored this important work continued their interest in agriculture in 1975 by choosing Reading University to host the Centre for Agricultural Strategy, supported with a £¼ million grant spread over five years. Reading may have been an obvious choice with its history of interest in agriculture and horticulture and contemporary work in estate management. The University has allowed its Professor of Animal Production to direct CAS on secondment.

Genetics

Professor Bowman, himself a Reading graduate who hails from the North Midlands, has a Ph D in genetics from Edinburgh. He spent eight years in industry applying his knowledge to improving strains of sheep, pigs and poultry before re-entering the academic world.

Hillwalking in the Pennines is one of his recreations and ties in with his enthusiasm for his project and with his keen interest in the problems of keeping intact the social fabric in our sparsely populated uplands.

He talks of the recent history of the Nuffield Foundation's work and how the Centre came into being: "Five years ago now they started to talk to various people with a view to doing something again in the field

of agricultural policy, believing the Government had not got a long-term strategy for the industry. They had the idea that this was not solely an economic exercise.

"Principles of British Agricultural Policy was basically looking at physical, biological and social, as well as economic, factors. The remit is to look at agriculture, forestry, horticulture and fisheries as far as the UK is concerned in the context of the European community and of the world, over a time-scale to the end of the century. The main task for the third year is to set some objectives for these industries and say something about how these objectives can be attained."

EEC agricultural policy

"The difficulty initially is to decide what these objectives ought to be. As far as agriculture is concerned the 1947 Act has very general phraseology which guided the post-war period. The Common Agricultural Policy of the EEC has some phraseology not identical but very close to it. Practically anyone would agree with what those objectives are but they need stating more precisely. That is one of the things I hope we shall do this year, both for forestry and agriculture."

In a paper which he presented to the Royal Society of Arts last year Professor Bowman set out the Centre's thinking on an agricultural strategy for the United Kingdom. In it he challenged the assumption that the UK can continue to rely indefinitely on substantial food and timber imports: "The rapid changes taking place in world population, economic growth, agricultural production and forest stocks have implications for the availability of food and timber for the UK."

But he also looks hard at the assumption that self-sufficiency is necessarily desirable: "It would involve increasing output above the level which would achieve minimum cost of supplies and at an added cost which increases, the higher the level of self-sufficiency."

r 2000 and beyond

" it would not be unreasonable to assume that around 2 million hectares of hill land is available for afforestation between now and the turn of the century

"The prospect of transferring up to 2 million hectares of farmland to forestry needs to be assessed. Certainly, the mere consideration of the area involved over-states this impact on farm production. In particular the hills and uplands of Britain account for a mere 7 per cent in gross farm output (NEDO 1973). As such the transfer of some 2 million out of 8 million hectares of hill farmland to forestry purposes would not cause a loss of more than 2 per cent in gross farm output in the absence of technical progress in agriculture.

"Admittedly, if planting was undertaken on this scale, given the interdependence between upland and low-land farming especially in the livestock sector, the impact on farm production might be higher. Nonetheless, a comparatively small growth in farm productivity should compensate for any projected loss.

"In fact forestry could be a strong economic rival to farming in the upland areas of Britain. Certainly, at the rates of return secured on all capital assets on sheep farms in 1974/75, timber does not appear such an uneconomic proposition."

— Chris Doyle in the July 1977 *Quarterly Journal of Forestry*, summarising views expressed in the Centre for Agricultural Strategy's report — 'Land for Agriculture'.

Cas theme

A recurring note in the CAS theme is the need to avoid waste. "Land for Agriculture" — the Centre's first report — stressed the importance of preventing unnecessary loss of agricultural land to urban development and avoiding reduction in output potential. Unlike urban development forestry is not a competitor for highly productive agricultural land. Potential forest land in its present agricultural use is probably not more than a third or a quarter as productive as all enclosed land.

It is of course early days to expect CAS to make disclosures of definitive recommendations for Britain's rural land strategy. This is particularly true early in 1978 as publication of the proceedings of 'The Future of Upland Britain' symposium is imminent.

Discussions 'lively'

At the symposium a full day was allocated to interdisciplinary meetings, five in all, where conflicting interests and views were aired. Professor Bowman, who chaired one of these groups, reports — one suspects with understatement — that discussions were "lively". And that some views underwent a fairly rapid modification when exposed to a different and critical perspective from an alternative discipline.

"Some people within their own industries had obviously never talked to each other. Some views were clearly unrealistic. What the symposium did was to provide a forum for people's views, where the problems of the marginal areas could be brought into the open."

"The next major step for the Centre is the publication of a strategy document on the uplands to come out later this year. In it we shall be taking into account much of what was said at the symposium and consider how to reconcile the economic conflicts which are liable to reduce the population and destroy the social fabric in these areas."

Would he agree that the work of the Centre, seen in a national context at this point in history, is very little and very late?

"I think we are great pragmatists in this country and that we hate to be planned; that the freedom of the individual must as far as possible be maintained. Anything that involves a consideration of the future is feared by some to be synonymous with planning and authoritarianism.

"We have no wish to dictate but we ought to consider the future to avoid disasters, making known to people that with ingenuity and an understanding of possible objectives we can harness our energies in a constructive way. I don't see any incompatibility between strategic planning and the best interests of the individual.

Social obligation

"We must begin to see land as a national natural resource which should be used in the interests of the UK: we have a social obligation to deploy our resources carefully or else I think we shall run into difficulties in developing the national economy and the fabric of society.

"Where you are intensively stocked with people as in the UK it makes it harder to decide what the ground rules are — that is part of the thinking behind the work of the Centre.

"The symposium undoubtedly modified people's views and has provided us with a wealth of information to help write our strategy paper for the marginal areas."

Foresters, attuned by their training and practice to longterm planning, see the vital role that forestry has to play in the uplands in improving productivity from marginal land, providing employment, and creating a renewable resource to help secure an important raw material for the country. They may reasonably expect that their claims upon an equitable proportion of the hill lands will get objective and dispassionate consideration from the Centre for Agricultural Strategy.

*"And so, when the Great ones have gone to their dinner
The Secretary sits, growing thinner and thinner
As vainly he tries to record and report
The things that he thinks that they think that they thought."*

Profile- the Company Secretary



PETER MOULD is quite happy to be called a bird-watcher. But as one of the more precise Tilhill people – and Tilhill people tend to be precise – he points out that birdwatching is just one – admittedly absorbing – pastime.

Peter is a dedicated Tilhill man who joined the company in 1957 when its head office was at Tilhill House. He is very conscious of being a member of a team which runs a very successful company and which has been carefully chosen with talents complementing each other to make a very efficient working unit.

Job satisfaction

'Job satisfaction and being part of the team is what counts,' he is fond of saying.

Peter began his business life in marine insurance at Lloyds and after three years was in the throes of deciding whether or not to become a working member and possibly go into the aviation risk business. He was feeling reluctant to lock himself to a City desk for the rest of his working life.

It was at this point that Archie Aitkins put to him the proposition that Tilhill had a very large future in which Peter could play an important part.

Lloyds

Peter speculated on what would have happened if he had stayed at Lloyds: 'I might have been richer in purely material terms,' he says, 'but the prospect of spending my life in the City did not compare with working and living in the country.'

When Peter Mould joined Tilhill on August 5 1957 as assistant company secretary at 25, the company's turnover was less than £100,000.

He has witnessed the build up of the management team and has participated in the successful foundation of much of the present company structure.

He sees his Lloyds' experience as being extremely valuable: 'As my initial commercial training it was first class' he says.

Mechanised accounting system

Peter's main task down the years has been to make sure the administration keeps pace with the growth of Tilhill and meets the demands of the management team. With the help of only one clerk at the start he soon had to take on more staff and eventually installed a mechanised accounting system.

Finally he hired a resident accountant.

By 1967 Tilhill was operating as a group of seven companies and Peter sees this growth and the general expansion that has taken place in the following decade as a true indication of the team's efforts and capabilities.

Since October 1977 Tilhill has reverted to operating as one company with divisions and Peter says Tilhill is now well equipped to meet the challenge of the future.

But if a look at Peter Mould's professional life reveals a dedicated and loyal worker, what sort of person is he outside the four walls of his office? The path to this knowledge is not easy as he rejects labels like squash player and birdwatcher somewhat defensively.

Mainly gardening

'I have been a very keen squash player in my time. But now I would rather spend my limited free time mainly gardening, growing my own vegetables and enjoying the fresh air. Birdwatching I see as being part of my life in the country and something I can enjoy with my family.'

Peter shies away from words like ecology, environment, and ornithology as suggesting a heavily academic preoccupation with the countryside which does not truly reflect the way he approaches his wildlife pursuits.

But, if pressed, he will admit to enjoying the change from the heavily wooded 'environment' at Churt to the higher and more open hilly country overlooking Alton in Hampshire where he moved four years ago.

Seasons' highlights

So instead of studying the habits of magpies and jays he now enjoys kestrels and finches, and watches for lapwings and wheatears on migratory passage through his territory, highlighting the seasons and for him visually enriching the countryside.

Peter tends to be deprecatory about his knowledge. But to the non-birdwatcher it would seem that an insight is revealed when you hear him say that wheatears are passing through late this year. Or to sense his pleasure to have seen an osprey or hoopoe miles – or weeks – off its beaten track.

Perhaps his pleasure is heightened by the sure knowledge that the 8.10 to Waterloo no longer plays a part in his daily routine.

AVIEMORE WEEKEND

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reputation, absolutely justified by subsequent events.

Kamikaze curling

Those who had elected to stay an extra day took a leisurely turn down to the curling rink: it is recorded that Murray Ure's team was defeated by Graham Russell's team by 7 – 5. Taking part were Noel Gore, new to the sport (and with a kind of kamikaze style) Tom McLelland, Colin Blyth and Bob Wilson, who all assisted the experts – Alan Robbins, Hugh Wheeldon and Finlay Mitchell.

Nothing moved

Now the wind got up, brought snow in drifts, cutting off the Coylumbridge curlers from Aviemore and all from the outside world.

By Sunday nothing moved except on skis – Ian Wallace made the two mile trip to Aviemore Centre by this means to get intelligence of events. He found Southern division director Bob Gray and wife imprisoned in their hotel. Afternoon saw the start of a 24 hour power failure and simultaneous breakdown of the Aviemore Centre's standby generator.

Helicopter

Monday dawned clear and bright and helicopters were surveying the seriousness of the situation. A train was scheduled for mid-day and a four-wheel drive Chevrolet Cherokee liberated the Gores, Russells, Finlay Mitchell and partner from the hotel trucking them to the railhead, where they were joined by the Grays.

Back at the hotel – more activity. A Unimog with snow blade cleared the hotel road system (and incidentally the heather garden) with difficulty. Lindsay Anne McPhee appeared and announced she was not lost in Glencoe. Certain privileged (non-Tilhill) guests were flown out of the area by private helicopter.

Nervous crowd

The Tuesday train – scheduled for 9.30, 11.30, 2.30 – finally came at 4.30, stood locked at the platform for 40 minutes while a nervous crowd of travellers, many of whom had had to abandon their cars, jostled on the platform edge. It moved off eventually – still locked – and came back much later with additional carriages.

Frightening struggle

But a frightening struggle to board ensued and some people – including the Bairs and Simpsons – were unable to find a place of any kind.

Next morning the first train actually arrived on schedule at 09.10 caught (just) by the Ures and Simpsons. The Wheeldons, Robbins, Bairs and Colin Blyth and Lindsay Ann McPhee got the next and the Tilhill contingent were let out.

Cars waited until Sunday and Monday February 5 and 6 for their owners to retrieve them and finally leave the area.

THE CHAIRMAN AT AVIEMORE

IN A HARD hitting speech at the Scottish division annual dinner chairman Archie Aitkins had some cogent things to say about the development of the British forestry industry and its needs for the future.

Tilhill was formed in 1947, the year of the Forestry Act which introduced the Dedication Scheme.

The new forestry industry required a much larger area of land under forests: "Up to 1972 we made considerable strides — when the private sector matched the Forestry Commission acre for acre."

Second objective

A second objective was the establishment of new methods of harvesting our forest products, to find new markets, and set up large scale marketing organisations for both conifers and hardwoods.

"By 1972 you could say we were well on the road to creating a large well organised and integrated forest industry with capital to back its future development."

"But we were so engrossed in our growing success that we ignored the outside world and its demands and were lulled into a false sense of security in our future."

"1972 was the year that brought us down to earth with its 'Cost Benefit Study' — all cost and no benefit."

"But the forest industry united at a stroke and has fought back to claim its place in the new world of policies for proper land use."

"I would like to pay special tribute to Jack Evans as chairman of the 'Forestry Liaison Committee' for his excellent and decisive leadership during the crisis."

Fight for forestry

In an appeal to fight against complacency Mr. Aitkins said: "We must revise our representative bodies not only to fight for forestry but to anti-

cipate future difficulties and attacks from other interests. To this end I hope that a new representative body for the whole forestry industry will use the best and most experienced representatives as members of its committee."

"I think the new body should have some say in the appointment of the chairman of the FC so that a strong leader always heads the Forest Authority. After all the FC would have died at birth if it had not had such dynamic midwives and leaders in Lord Robinson and Lord Lovat."

As a nation

"We must no longer work in isolation as a nation. We must take an interest in, and act with, the foresters of the EEC. Fred Hummel has had a tough time and is still having a tough time trying to iron out a policy for the Nine. But he is a bulldog and he will not be sidetracked from his far seeing policies and ideas for forestry in the EEC."

"Everyone engaged in forestry must support new ideas for the introduction of new wood-using industries."

"We must have a set of criteria laid down for discussions on land use to facilitate and speed up decisions by all concerned."

"The universities are producing well-trained forestry graduates and I am pleased to see that these new boys are more alive to the values of money, investment and business ideas than those of my generation who trained for the palmy days of the Indian Forestry Service."

Complicated needs

"Even so the universities should have a special course on accountancy and business methods as an additional part of their curriculum to fit foresters for the more complicated needs of the latter part of the 20th century."

MORE PLANTING

FROM PAGE 1

grants and loans (at 40% and 50% of cost respectively) for new boats and working gear. If occupiers of potential forestry land were eligible for similar cash incentive as an alternative to existing arrangements substantial increases in forest acreage could be achieved.

Land available

The report quotes Dr. F. C. Hummel of EEC Commission: "Scotland has land available for afforestation with a production potential at least 1½ times as high as the Community average, while the costs are only about two-thirds of the average."

A conclusion reached is that forestry and the timber industry constitute one of the most suitable sectors in the economy to develop. Forestry is one of the most labour-intensive industries and it has strong output linkages with other sectors in the domestic economy. The manufacturing of timber products also has high output and employment multipliers.

Tilhill welcome

Managing director David Brierton told Tree Scribe:

"Tilhill welcomes this report from the independent and authoritative Scottish Council. The will and capability is available in the private sector of the forestry industry to respond to such expansion; it remains for Government to remove the obstacles presently blocking the way forward."

NURSERY UPSWING

FROM PAGE 1

by taking selected seedlings — mainly hardwoods and larches — for planting out. They have grown well with good root systems in the particularly favourable summer of 1977.

Increased demand

John White says the increased demand for Sitka spruce transplants has been produced by the upswing in national planting levels. And Norway spruce is in great demand again for Christmas trees. However nursery production cannot be switched off and on again like a tap and no secret formula is available to produce good spruce planting stock in one year.

Better balance

Supply and demand should be in much better balance however by the season 1978-79 and John White is looking forward to a long period of much more stable trading conditions.

Nurserymen have always had to contend with the vagaries of weather in the shape of frost, drought, floods, heat and winds. He sincerely hopes that the politicians have learned the lesson that Nature is quite enough to contend with.



COWIE RESUMES PRODUCTION

A TILHILL lorry with a load of chipwood rolls into the factory at Cowie — the first load after the chipboard plant was taken over and reopened by West German group Bison Werke, who were the original suppliers of STP's processing machinery.

It has not been disclosed how much Bison paid for STP or how much British Government money has been invested in the latest venture. But the Scottish Economic Planning Department said recently that it had been "substantial".

Originally 400 men were employed at Cowie but this figure was halved by the receiver when fulfilling outstanding orders.

When the new owners took over on February 20 150 people were re-engaged and it is reported that this could rise by a further 100 if demand improves for its products now to be marketed under the new company name Caberboard Ltd.

AVIEMORE — A DRAMATIC WEEKEND



Three young people enjoying the Aviemore dinner dance: L to R — Robert Gray, assistant branch manager Borders, Lindsay Anne McPhee, assistant branch manager Central and her boyfriend, zoologist Giles Forbes.

ON THE SNOWY morning of Saturday January 28 well dined Tilhill foresters were enthusiastically curling at the Cowlumbridge Hotel's ice rink after the Scottish division annual dinner unaware of what the Highland weather gods had in store for them. In fact the worst blizzard for 30 years was about to strike and brought to those who were making a weekend of it an exciting if tension-filled journey out.

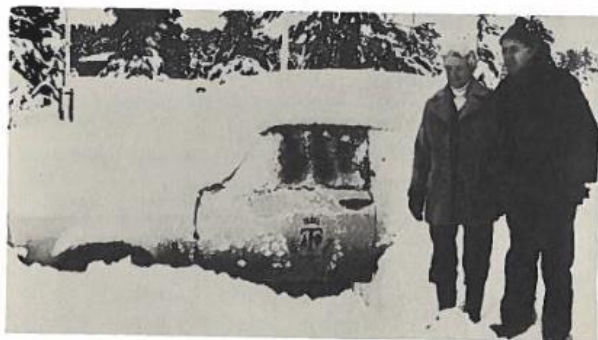
Trapped Tilhillians

Tales of trapped Tilhillians make exciting reading — last out of the area was Jedburgh assistant branch manager R M Gray who went to stay on Saturday night with his parents in Advie, 15 miles northeast of Aviemore. He emerged from the drifts a week later.

His record for the longest imprisonment just beat that of Argyll branch forester Bob Wilson and his wife Mairi who were snowed in at Carrbridge until Thursday.

But at Aviemore itself the police message over the hotel Tannoy on Saturday morning telling would-be road travellers to move fast if they wanted to beat the weather injected a note of urgency into packing arrangements. The A9 both north and south of Aviemore has a rogue

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Mr. & Mrs. Noel Gore in the snows at Aviemore.



Forester returns

FORESTER Martin S. Giles has joined Tilhill (South-west branch) — for the second time. Martin, 31, trained with the Forestry Commission, undergoing two years practical training in the Mendips and two years at Forestry School in Perthshire. He then spent four years with International Timber Company in Ghana as a forest officer, returning to join Tilhill (Central branch) where he worked for five years.

Now after six months of self-employment he has rejoined the company.



Highland marketing

26 YEAR old New Zealander Phillip Scott joined Tilhill as forester, Highland branch, in January of this year. His forestry experience during the 6 years between his course at Rotorua Forestry Training School and his arrival in U.K. comprised several aspects of forestry management and included timber harvesting.

Phil is being posted to Golspie in Sutherland to be Tilhill's on-the-spot man to oversee the expanding contract marketing side of Highland branch's work in the north.

Steel for Anglia

STEEL HAUGHTON, who joined Tilhill Southern division six months ago as assistant branch manager at the South West branch, has been transferred to Anglia.

AROUND & ABOUT



Treatment plant manager

TREATMENT plant manager Mike White has taken over responsibility for the Greenhills treatment plant, selling 'Longlyf' products with its fully automated treatment system. He will also be responsible for the management of the West Midland Timber Treatment Company plant, near Bridgnorth, Salop, selling 'Forest Brand' products, where a major increase in kiln capacity was installed last summer, and where the treatment process will be fully automated this spring.

Mike White will also be implementing trading developments based on these two modern plants.

Mike, ex-regular army — Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and Royal Irish Rangers — and keen sportsman — representative rugby for BAOR and Northern Ireland, with a canoe trip from Berlin to Worcester to his credit — entered the timber industry in 1970.

He specialised in fencing materials and became manager of a company which grew to have a wide product range, being promoted to sales director in 1976.

His nine-strong sales team covered products and customer groups including landscaping contractors, local authorities, development corporations, agricultural merchants, cooperatives, farmers and national parks.



Highland planting

AFTER TWO years with the Forestry Commission William (Bill) Dickson took his O.N.D. at Newton Rigg College 1973-1976. He joined Tilhill in February 1978 after gaining more field experience in the Border country. He is now forester, Highland branch at Inverness and his first duties will be the supervision of Highland's planting programme.



Tilhill chairman Archie Aitkins delivered a punchy speech on the state of the forestry industry at the Aviemore dinner. Full report is on page 7.