

THE SLASHER

Forestry Commission News

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NEW PHASE IN KIELDER'S HISTORY

LORD ROBINSON, now on the high seas and bound for Australia, recently performed a simple but nevertheless important ceremony, for stripping off his jacket and showing that he had lost none of his physical skill as a forester, his lordship felled the first tree to be cut from Kielder Forest. Thus was marked a new phase in Kielder's history, for within the life-time of many of us a veritable spate of timber should be coming therefrom -- an avalanche of such dimensions that the whole aspect of the Border Country, and the way of life of its inhabitants, may be changed.

WELL DONE, JEAN!

Miss JEAN W. PHILIP, a Clerical Officer in the Accounts Section of the Aberdeen Office, has been awarded a Junior Forester's Certificate by the Royal Scottish Forestry Society. In the recent examination she gained 83 per cent, which was no mean achievement. The examination was no mean test, either, for at Countess-wells Forest, where it was held, Miss PHILIP had to fell a 14 ft. Scots pine in just the right way that such trees should be cut. Throughout last winter Miss PHILIP attended night classes in forestry. All of which prompts us to ask: Is she the first and only female "Junior Forester" in the Commission?

It was in 1925 that a beginning in land acquisition was made at Smales, in which forest unit the tree was felled by his lordship, and in 1926 the first planting on peat areas was carried out. Then for the next four to five years there was a process of "feeling the way", and as the result of experiment, trial and error the possibilities of extensive afforestation were fully appreciated; the result is that today Kielder is the biggest State forest in Britain. Although Smales is the oldest unit at Kielder, it has been overtaken by some of the younger plantations -- due to modern silvicultural methods and generally improved technique.

Incidentally, it was just 22 years previously that the Chairman, as Mr. R.L. Robinson, saw the first trees planted at Smalesburn. He has since

maintained the keenest possible interest in Kielder and, as is well known, when he was created a Peer of the Realm he chose to be known as Lord Robinson of Kielder and Adelaide. To be able to perform the ceremony of cutting the first tree must have given his lordship great personal satisfaction.

Another point of interest about Kielder is that British Railways have recently been asked by Mr. W.L. TAYLOR to consider re-naming the station, the proposed new name being Kielder Forest Station. The Railway Executive have agreed that there is a case for changing the name, but point out that to do this would involve an amount of clerical work which at the present time would not be justified. The Executive has, however, promised to review the position as soon as the pressure of work is eased. So there the matter must rest.

Arising out of the foregoing discourse in general it should be added that when he reaches Australia Lord Robinson is going first to Perth to visit his mother, who is 94 years of age. He later intends to visit the various capitals and to see representatives of the forest authorities.

PROGRESS OF THE CENSUS OF COMMISSION PLANTATIONS

In the past quite a lot has been written in The Slasher about the progress of the census of privately owned woodlands, but until now nothing has appeared about the survey of our own plantations. Readers may, therefore, be interested to know how the work is progressing. In England field work has been completed in the North West Conservancy and is at an advanced stage in the other Conservancies. It is anticipated that all field work will be completed by the end of this month.

In the North Conservancy, Scotland, the expected date of completion is 15-30th October; in the South Conservancy by the end of September; and in the West by the end of this month. The survey in the East Conservancy is already concluded. In the South Wales Conservancy work should be through by the end of the year; this should also be the case in the North Wales Conservancy, subject to staff considerations.

THE HIGHLAND SHOW

Inverness features in news from the North (Scotland) Conservancy. For four days recently the 35 acres of playing fields were the scene of the first post-war show of the (now) Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland. More than 87,000 people paid to see a magnificent collection of pedigree livestock and a truly remarkable exhibition of farm implements and so on.

The Forestry Exhibition received special mention as being one of the most interesting and instructive features. It was organised by the Commission, the Royal Scottish Forestry Society, the Timber Development Association and the Co-operative Forestry Society (Scotland) Ltd., with the general layout agreed by the Forestry Society and the Commission. Our most interesting exhibit was, perhaps, a set of pictures, painted in murals, and giving a short history of the Scottish woods. Other photographs showed various operations in State and private woodlands, while various species of home grown timber were shown in contrasting fashion. Those associated with the Commission stand were Messrs. JAMES FRASER (Conservator), J.Q. WILLIAMSON (Chief Education Officer), A.M. FRASER (D.O.), WALTER DENMAN (retired D.O.) D. MacDONALD (Forester, Culloden) and other D.O.'s and Foresters, and not forgetting T. MacLEAN, Messenger, who spent the week under cover in the Conservancy canteen at the showground. It was a pity that the Forestry stand was so near the livestock section, for beasts and birds of the farmyard contrived to serenade Mr. MacLEAN into and through the early hours.

Highlight of the show was the visit of the King and Queen and Princess Margaret. The Forestry stand was one of those inspected by Their Majesties; Mr. JAMES FRASER was presented to the Royal visitors and we have no doubt that as they were shown round he was highly satisfied with the climax to months of paper work, conversations, conferences and still more paper work.

NORTH WEST (ENGLAND) CONSERVANCY NEWS

Herewith a cocktail of type which reflects some of the more recent happenings in the N.W. (E) Conservancy.

The Social Committee, encouraged by the success of the Christmas party, has arranged two more attractions. By the time you read this one of them, an outing in July to Trentham Gardens, will have already taken place and will no doubt be marked by a paragraph in a future issue. The other event is a garden party to be held in the grounds of Upton Grange on the 21st of this month. Where this latter attraction is concerned the Committee's deliberations have, we understand, "been cloaked in a shroud of secrecy"; there have been rumours that attempts to borrow donkeys from the nearby zoo, for the purpose of giving rides on the lawn, have proved abortive; but the Committee has plenty of other ideas, and without doubt a good time will be had by all.

On July 4th the wife of Assistant Engineer G.W. CROFT presented her husband with a daughter. While hearty congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Croft it is felt that the Stork was a little inconsiderate; had he deferred his visit for only a few hours a grateful State would have been enabled suitably to mark the occasion.

Assistant Engineer E.B. JACKSON (Grizedale) has resigned; so has Foreman R.N.M. LUCAS, who has emigrated to Canada.

FOREST OF AE VICTORY AT BOLTON

Forest of Ae workers were well represented in the leading team at the Twelfth International Carpet Bowling Match held recently at Bolton, when Scotland scored 439 shots against England's 289. The cup for the highest scoring team was won by Gubhill (Forest of Ae), who were 18 shots up, the winning rink consisting of the following: Ganger J. ROBINSON (F.W.H. No. 6); J. GORDON, Forestry Commission shepherd, Knockenshang; J. HALLIDAY, Whitestones; and W. ROBERTS, Glencorse.

The Scottish party mustered in Dumfries and made the journey to Bolton by 'bus, a halt for a meal being made at Carnforth. On arrival at Bolton the two pipers accompanying the Scots led the way into the Drill Hall, where the contest was to take place. The match took two and a half hours to play, and at the close winners and losers foregathered in good fellowship. It was pointed out that carpet bowling has no equal as a winter pastime, especially in rural areas. Each member of the winning team received a miniature silver cup and, on the long journey home to Dumfries, plans were already being made for another trip next year, with even bigger and better scores.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

The scene is the North East (England) Conservancy Office. On a Friday morning the office cleaners discover an Accounts Room window wide open; the police are notified and mention made of a suspicious character who has been seen in the neighbourhood. In the evening the mystery deepens, for a cleaner finds the "mark" of the "criminal" - he has been audacious enough to leave his "visiting card" pinned to the wall of the Chief Clerk's room! Follows another hasty consultation between cleaner and police and a constable keeps the building under observation, later offering the Chief Clerk the Protection of the Law.

The cause of all the trouble? We don't know how the window came to be open, but the subsequent events were due entirely to the following -- the Chief Clerk, having undertaken to become correspondent for this news letter, printed a card "Don't Forget The Slasher" and pinned it on his wall. What would you think or do, if you were the cleaner?

TRANSFERS
19th July:-

The following transfers had been notified to Headquarters by

District Officer M.G. HARGER, from Gwydyr to Dolgelly, N. (W); Forester T. BENICK, Allerston to Hamsterley, N.E. (E); Forester I.O. EVANS, Wentwood to Derry Ormond, S. (W); Foreman D.D.C. ROBERTSON, Inchmacardoch to Queen's, N. (S); Foreman C.A. TAYLOR, Strathnairn to Millbuie, N. (S); Foreman W.J. WILSON, Mortimer to Walcot, N.W. (E); Foreman I.J. McGRUER, Ardgarten to Research Branch, Scotland; Foreman D.A. BRIMSLEY, Research, Warcham, to New; Foreman P.J. POWER, Clipstone to Kershope, N.W. (E); Assistant Engineer J. CURRYN, Glenbranter to Cairnban Camp, Lochgilphead, W. (S); Assistant Engineer J.S. PERKINS, Witton-le-Wear to York, N.E. (E); Clerk of Works G.H. CURTIS, Eggesford to Dartmoor, S.W. (E); Clerk of Works F. HASLETT, Bodmin to Eggesford, S.W. (E); Miss M.E. MANICOM, H.B.O., Woking, S.E. (E), to Headquarters; Draughtsman G. RITTEVER, Aberystwyth to Shrewsbury; E.O. H. HENRY, Edinburgh to Shrewsbury, N. (W); E.O. Miss B.D. MacNIVEN, Glasgow, W. (S) to York, N.E. (E); E.O. J.D. CRABB, Education, London to Director (E) London; E.O. J.B. BIDDLE, Headquarters to Shrewsbury; E.O. Miss J. WRIGHT, New to Alice Holt; E.O. Miss K.M. TURNER, Alice Holt to Woking; E.O. A.J. SEARLE, Dean to Headquarters; C.O. E.G. ROBERTS, New to Dumfries, S. (S); C.O. Miss O.A. HARMON, returned from H.T.P.D., to Alice Holt; C.O. J. MORRIS, Aberystwyth to London; C.O. Miss M.M. WILSON, Dumfries to Glasgow, W. (S).

Mr. A. WATT, Conservator, formerly at Glasgow, has transferred to Edinburgh. He has been succeeded by MR. J.E. JAMES, formerly Divisional Officer, South (Scotland).

THE WORK THEY DO (No. 6) The Finance Branch at Headquarters has to see that all the Commission's payments and receipts are properly audited and accounted for. In the current Financial Year we expect to spend about £7,000,000 and receive more than £1,000,000, so that the task is no light one. It is carried out by the Examination Section under H.E.H. DRAKE and is divided into two sub-sections. One consists of the local auditors, who are as follows: England and Wales, Messrs. E.J.F. TINSON, H.M. DENNY, J.L. REID, J.D. SMITH and E.T. SPRINGALL; Scotland, J.R. FERENS, J.D. CARSTAIRS and A. REID. The auditors "range" over the three countries, visiting the local offices and auditing the books and records maintained there. Besides clearing up many queries on the spot, which would otherwise be the subject of correspondence, the auditors' visits serve another useful purpose; they bring ideas from local offices to H.Q., and vice versa, thus enabling many to profit by the experience of others.

The other sub-section (under Mr. R. SHOTBOLT, assisted by Miss D.M. FROST and Miss I. HAMILTON) has the job of standard-heading and passing for payment all accounts and claims dealt with at H.Q. These include acquisitions, invoices for vehicles, stores and equipment, foreign remittances (for imported seed, etc.), bulk travel railway accounts, travelling and subsistence claims and, last but by no means least, the voluminous quarterly accounts from the Ministry of Works, covering supplies and services obtained throughout Britain. No payment on any of these accounts is made until it has been passed by Mr. SHOTBOLT'S department, who see that the relative claim has been properly certified by the appropriate officer, ensure that payment is covered by Treasury authority and indicate the right standard-head to which it should be charged in the accounts.

THE FOLLOWING HAVE ARRIVED On 8th June, to Meg, wife of District Officer J.L.F. FERGUSON, Research (Census), a son. The wife of Forester A.J. STANNARD (Bramhill) has also presented her husband with a son. News of another happy event has reached The Slasher from the Aberystwyth Office; D.C. FISHER became a father on 10th July, his wife having presented him with a daughter -- Christine. Until a few months ago Mrs. Fisher was a typist in the Welsh Directorate.

FLASHES FROM EDINBURGH **THE SOCIAL CLUB** -- The transfer of H. HENRY from the office of Director, Scotland, to Shrewsbury has deprived the Social Club of a hardworking and efficient secretary. The new secretary is W. ELLIOTT, and members are confident he will carry on the good work initiated by his predecessor. Mr. HENRY was recently promoted to Executive Officer. **THE BA TONELOR CLUB** -- The marriage of C.O. W. POOLE has still further denuded the ranks and membership now totals only six. It is understood that one of the remaining members may soon cease to qualify -- at least, says our Edinburgh correspondent, "it looks that way." W. POOLE, by the way, was recently married to Miss ELLTHELREDA DOMACHI, a native of Dunfermline; to mark the occasion the couple were presented by the office staff with a handsome eight-day clock. Congratulations go to Miss E.S. J. MILL, who has become engaged; and to A. ARMSTRONG and J. HOGARTH who, it is understood, were the only members of the Commission staff to be successful in the examination for establishment as Clerical Officers. The former took first place in his age group. Well done! **DEPARTURE** -- District Officer W.N. GIBSON has departed for an appointment with the Ministry of Agriculture, Northern Ireland. He takes with him the good wishes of all the staff.

PATIENCE REWARDED

Now and again items reach The Slasher which, although not personal news, certainly reflect the deep interest taken by many of the Commission's staff in Nature and all her wondrous works. DOUGLAS MILNE, Foreman at Haugh, S.W. (E), tells of patience rewarded. "At the beginning of last winter," he writes, "several caterpillars sought sanctuary in my house. I made a request that none should be moved, but only one was left to me -- this being attached to a ceiling. On a day in June I was attracted by convulsions of an insect which proved to be a moth in progress of transition from the caterpillar. The body was naked save for a ruffle of down on what I must describe as the shoulders. The legs and antennae were fully grown, but limp and useless. I therefore placed the insect on a bread platter, and over this I placed an inverted pie-dish to permit further observation; the whole I carried to the lawn and sunshine. In a surprisingly short time the ruffle of down took the appearance of stunted wings and gradually the body became clothed with short grey hairs. The reflexed edges of the forewings straightened and then were disclosed the hind-wings, which had been lightly rolled as one might roll a piece of paper without creasing. Twenty minutes had passed. The legs were now strong enough to afford spasmodic support for the body, but had the wings been other than supple they would have been destroyed in the periodic and frenzied struggling. The bulbous eyes were less incongruous. An hour had passed. The wings, apparently fully developed, were restored to the resting position, the body was fully clothed, the legs were strong and the antennae were rigidly in position. Ninety minutes had passed and once more there was activity, but now it was no longer of travail but due to an impatient desire for freedom. I lifted the pie-dish and the moth walked sedately away into the grass. In return for hospitality I am immeasurably rewarded."

THE REALM OF SPORT

Sport has been to the fore where Alice Holt is concerned. Recent activities have included a cricket match with what might be described as a London team, for it included representatives of the headquarters staff of Director, Research and Education. The weather was vile, but in between cloud bursts, and changing of the original wicket, play proceeded and London scored 67 for 7 wickets. KEN WOODFIELD contributed 35 not out, and London sportingly declared. Alice Holt passed their opponent's score for the loss of 5 wickets and finished with a total of 102 (TOM IRVING 46). There was still an hour left for play, and in a light-hearted manner London scored 84 for 4 (WOODFIELD again!). Alice Holt were due to play New Forest, at Branshaw, in July; full report later.

Where golf is concerned R.B. HETHERINGTON has been in action, having been chosen as a reserve for the Civil Service team versus the Army at West Hill; he played a singles with his opposite number and halved the match. He was later a member of the Civil Service team which met the Navy, being on the winning side and halving his match. It is understood his score was 74 against the par of 75 for the course (St. George's Hill).

It is hoped that Alice Holt will later on be receiving a lawn tennis team from Headquarters.

VISIT TO BENMORE

The West Conservancy (Scotland) office staff celebrated the anniversary of D-Day by themselves launching an invasion, the objective being Benmore Forest. With efficient staff work the objective was taken without loss -- except of dignity, when certain ladies were boarding transport. In consolidating their gains the invading party suffered a casualty, namely one silk stocking. Following an interesting reconnaissance of Benmore Gardens tea was served in the Forest Workers' Hostel, Kilman, the invaders being joined by local Foresters and their wives.

During the visit some torrential showers damped the invaders' apparel but not their enthusiasm, and having accomplished their objective the visitors withdrew according to plan and re-embarked on the steamer. Two men were reported missing, but it can only be assumed they were covering their withdrawal in the right "spirit".

ON FOREST CAMEOS

DEPUTY CHIEF CLERK G. CHILDS, of the office of Director, Scotland, writes to say that he found the recent cameo about Allerston most interesting. He states, however, he was surprised that no mention was made of the part played by the Forester in charge of the first plantings; the omission is herewith made good. The Forester concerned was J.A.K. MELDRUM, who later became a District Officer in Scotland, (Northern Division) and is now Director of Forestry in Eire, having succeeded Dr. MARK L. ANDERSON in that post. Incidentally, Mr. CHILDS was Divisional Accountant in the old No. 1 Division in England in 1921, so he should be conversant with the Allerston of days gone by. He recalls, too, that in those early days the District Officer in charge of Allerston was J.C. POOLE.

LOOKING FORWARD TO FOOTBALL

The approach of the football season means a lot to G.J. CRULGUSLIK, a clerk in the Aberdeen Office who looks after Nursery Records, etc. He has already played outside-left for Scotland in the Junior International match against Wales at Bangor, when Scotland won 5-3. He was again in Scotland's team when, at Hampden Park, Glasgow, Ireland were beaten 3-1. It is understood that this young player has had more than one offer to turn professional. Two International Caps in one season is good going, and after his excellent performance he should be assured of his place in the team if a match is arranged with England.