

GOLF -- AND A CHALLENGE TO ENGLAND AND WALES

The Forestry Commission Golf Club held its autumn outing at Longniddry, East Lothian, recently. Twenty competitors took part and the weather was good -- in fact the eight years old record of dry sunny days for these outings was maintained, thus confirming the Committee's faith in its forecasts and generally adding to the enjoyment of the event.

By winning the Fotheringham Cup with the excellent net score of 79, Mrs. V. WHITE, of the office of Director, Scotland, was responsible for an achievement which should be an incentive to other ladies to take an active interest in golf. Where the mere males are concerned, there is certainly a realisation that it will be no easy task to recover the trophy from Mrs. White.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Christmas is here again - with, we hope, time for a brief relaxation and enjoyment of such good things as may come our way in these days of prolonged austerity.

During the past year the affairs of the Commission have continued to progress and, through the medium of The Slasher, I send my warmest thanks to you all for the good work you have done to further the cause of forestry in Great Britain.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

A.H. GOSLING

Director-General.

The Cameron Trophy was won by Mr. WILLIAMS, a partner in the firm of the Directorate's legal advisers. His net score was 74, a good effort on a course where the rough was comparable to a waste-land nursery in embryo -- and just as interesting, judging by the time spent by several well-known foresters in exploring it!

Guests, as usual, included representatives of the Home Timber Trade, professional advisers, and old friends of Home Timber Production Department. The next outing will be held in the spring, when the Sutherland and Guest Cups will be competed for; as the competition for the latter trophy is open to all members of the Commission staff, entrants from England and Wales will be welcomed.

WE BUILD THEM TO STAY PUT

During the heavy flooding in South East Scotland, during which many railway and other bridges were swept away, the Commission's new Bailey Bridge at Edgarhope survived undamaged. This despite the unfinished nature of certain protective works. Road Foreman JAMES GIBSON was on the site at midnight prepared, if necessary, still further to secure the results of his labour; but although the flood waters reached road level, the bridge remained passable and intact.

GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. ARTHUR BARTRAM, of Forge Row, Slitting Mill, near Rugeley, recently celebrated their golden wedding.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Bartram are 74 years of age and, happily, are in good health. The former is employed as a forest worker at Cannock Chase and has been with the Commission for 25 years; despite his age, he is very active and can turn his hand to any kind of work. The wedding anniversary was marked by a tea at a local hostelry, at which many relatives and friends were present. To their congratulations we are privileged to add those of The Slasher.

THE THINGS THEY DO! (At Alice Holt)

Trees, peas, dollars and points -- you can't see the connection? Then we'll try to explain.

Trees are our particular concern and we live and die for them. In this we differ slightly from the cockchafer, to which the tree in nursery and forest is fair prey. There is the further difference that we try to encourage the growth of trees, whereas the cockchafer, maybe without malice and solely from a desire to live, does just the opposite. We must, therefore, do something about him.

Nature has herself evolved a system of control which, when it is working properly, is very efficient. The trouble is that the system does not seem to operate continuously. This may be because Nature, having conceived both trees and cockchafers, is somewhat stymied and feels she can't completely neglect either. Now Nature's method of control consists simply of releasing among the cockchafers a small parasite which bores into the larvae and destroys from within. Where she appears to fall down is in not providing sufficient parasites -- or, at least, in not providing them just where we should like to see them. We are accordingly trying to rectify matters.

Entomologist H.S. HANSON, of the Forest Research Station, has called for larvae and has been receiving them in shoals from various forests -- at least 10,000 of the juicy, six-legged creatures have been individually examined by him and his assistants. On

arrival at Alice Holt they have been sorted into those which have already been parasitised and those which have not. They have then been placed into tins with some earth and a couple of dried peas apiece. The peas are the food on which they will exist through the months ahead. From this beginning Mr. Hanson hopes, in the spring, to breed hordes of parasites for subsequent release in those areas where they are badly needed. These areas are to be found not only in this country but throughout the world, and requests for parasitised larvae have come from a number of countries, including America. Already Mr. Hanson has despatched a quantity of larvae to North America, and the Treasury has benefited to the extent of several hundred dollars, with the prospect of more if export can be stepped up. A week or so ago 2,000 parasitised larvae were sent by air to Mauritius.

Where do the points come in? Well, any housewife will tell you that you can't get dried peas without surrendering points. And here the Ministry of Food has come to the assistance of Alice Holt and granted permits to purchase. This refutes, in a small way, the charge frequently made that the Civil Service has no imagination.

Trees, peas, dollars and points. See what we mean?

MARRIAGES Assistant Engineer E. R. HUGGARD, Rheola, has wed Miss Hilda PRYCE, daughter of Dr. Pryce, of Llandovery. G. P. WILLIAMS, clerk in the Aberystwyth office, has married Miss Linda DAVIES, of Cardigan. Miss Davies was formerly employed in the G. P. O. at Aberystwyth.

Incidentally, the Social Club of the Welsh Directorate office is in full swing with its winter session. Opening event was a dance, and the club is now meeting each week for whist, table tennis tournaments, games drives, debates and so on. Gramophone recitals are held every other Sunday at the Newlyn Hostel.

TRANSFERS The following transfers were notified to Headquarters by 19th November.

District Officer R. E. PALLETT from Cardiff to Tintern, South (W); Forester A. ROSS from Blainadam, East (S) to Hallyburton, East (S); Forester C. P. W. Carr from Gwydyr, North (W) to Clwyd, North (W); Forester G. H. STOCKLEY from Cannock, North West (E) to Enville, N. W. (E); Forester M. K. MACDONALD from Fort Augustus (Research) to Mabie (Research); Forester W. EVERITT from Cannock to Swynnerton, North West (E); Forester D. R. THOMAS from Kershope, North West (E) to Dalton, N. W. (E); Miss D. Y. KILGOUR (E. O.) from Glasgow to Inverness.

CLAIM TO FAME? Is Nevis Forest (North, Scotland) unique in having a fire notice fixed inside a cemetery in the forest area? No doubt this is intended only as a warning to visitors.

And, while dwelling on the macabre, we might refer to a road sign to be seen in the timber yard of J. Gliksten and Son, Cassio Bridge, Watford:-

These elm logs are for coffin manufacture -
Drive Carefully

PROMOTIONS The following promotions have been approved:-

To Divisional Officer: C. A. J. BARRINGTON, J. T. L. FITZHERBERT, G. I. MCKENZIE, M. J. PENISTAN. To District Officers, Grade I: J. A. BAMPFORD, H. CRUIKSHANK, J. A. DICKSON, E. E. DIXON, T. E. EDWARDS, G. FORREST, R. GILLIESPIE, F. G. GOOD, F. C. HUMMEL, L. G. T. KENYON. To Head Foresters: J. W. BROOKS, L. T. EDWARDS, C. MACNAB, J. D. ROBBIE, C. R. WELLINGTON, J. WATSON.

To Forester, Grade I: H. ADAMS, F. W. EVERETT, W. FAIRBAIRN, J. M. FERGUSON, A. GRANT, A. HUGHES, J. JACKSON, W. T. JENKINS, R. J. JENNINGS, L. A. KING, A. R. MURRAY, F. F. G. PARSONS, D. J. MACRAE, J. REID, ALLAN ROSS, ARCHIBALD ROSS, R. V. WATERS, J. T. WILDASH.

IN THE NORTH WEST (ENGLAND) CONSERVANCY Newly appointed as Foremen are Messrs. A. BOWES, H. MCKAY and D. H. WALSH. Recent appointments include A. E. HALL, Surveyor, and Mrs. A. VENABLES as a typist, in the Conservancy office.

"BALLING THE JACK" -- EDINBURGH VERSION:
AND ANOTHER CHALLENGE

It is doubtful if ever before in the Commission's history wood has been treated with such irreverence by members of the staff as was the case one evening last month. Lovely specimens of *Tillia vulgaris* were hurled unceremoniously at equally attractive specimens of *Populus tremula*, to the accompaniment of yells, groans and other expressions of anguish. The scene was a modern roadhouse that used once to be on the outskirts of Edinburgh, until a thousand new houses sprang up around it, and seemingly placed it nearer the centre of the city; the occasion was the opening meeting of the Skittles Section of the Edinburgh Office Social Club.

When the section was formed it was certainly not thought that so many enthusiasts were to be found among the staff, and the result was that two surprisingly large teams,

named "Hibs" and "Hearts" by the soccer-conscious organiser, JOE HOGARTH, lined up for the match.

The first woods were set in motion by Miss ISABEL DEA for "Hibs", and Miss CHARLOTTE DEA for "Hearts" (the ladies were out in force), and "Hearts" gained an early lead. "Maximums" by Skipper Hogarth and his team-mate GORDON GRANT enabled them to hold it, and to finish the first game 89 points in front of "Hibs". The "Slate" was wiped clean, glasses emptied, and the second game commenced. Skipper A.B. MACPHERSON, of "Hibs", set a hot pace and his team backed him up; J.W. BLANE and A.S. WATSON registered good scores at a time when "Hearts" stars were recording new "lows". And so "peels" were called at the end of the second game, "Hearts" lead being reduced to 60 points. The third and final game was a "corner", with enthusiasm at fever pitch, glasses left unattended, and the marker a busy man. However, "Hearts" ended the game with a slight lead, and a final advantage of 94 points over the match.

The number of applicants for the next skittles outing is already so great that it is probable that names will have to be drawn out of the hat.

We are authorised by our Edinburgh correspondent to ask if there are any challengers in Scotland, England or Wales.

ON THE MERITS OF CYCLING

"Cycling," says ERIC WAREBURTON, a C.O. employed in the Engineering Section at Headquarters, "is good for you; it is a healthy pastime." And this after having spent several weeks in a Kent hospital recovering from head injuries sustained while cycling, and during an argument with the machine of a fellow rider. But we're glad to see him back at work, seemingly little, if any, the worse for his accident.

DANCING AT THE DUKE OF YORK'S

In November the Headquarters Table Tennis Club organised a successful dance at the Duke of York's Services Club, near Sloane Square. The company included officers of Headquarters and of the office of Director, England, and their friends. The programme included several amusing novelty dances, while a striking and pleasant feature of the evening was the social spirit of the gathering.

Among those present were Director, England (Mr. O.J. SANGAR) and Mr. C.A. CONNELL. The duties of M.C. were shared by D.E. SMITH and M.A. GUBBY, both of Headquarters, while many of the arrangements were made by Miss J.B. MOSS(H.Q.). It augurs well for the future that the most persistent enquiry after the event concerned the prospects of a "repeat". The Table Tennis Club Committee states that it is hoped to hold another dance in January.

THE IDLE LIFE

"It's possible, just possible, to find idle men in some Departments like Forestry, Agriculture, Ministry of Supply, and Civil Aviation." So ran a passage in a recent article on the Civil Service, which appeared in a weekly publication which claims a million or so readership. We're glad to know it is only just possible.

PARADE OF THE INNOCENTS

"Many are called, but few are chosen". This is a phrase sibilantly breathed by members of the Headquarters staff when, not infrequently, selected officers are called to the nearby Savile Row Police Station to take part in identification parades. One such parade was held only the other day, Messrs. J.S. OVERY, N.D. STUTTER, P.W. BROOK, F.H. HALSEY, M.E. MEALIN and A.J. WALKER being asked to participate.

This identification parade business is an experience which has to be undergone to be appreciated; no matter how innocent one may be a certain nervousness creeps up on one, and when the eyes of the witness rest for a moment upon you, a shiver of apprehension chills the spine. For, believe it or not, at one parade some time ago a member of the Headquarters staff was, in fact, "identified" as the miscreant; fortunately the police knew that he bore an unblemished character.

Not even the female members of the staff are immune from the clarion call from across the road, and on one occasion a woman "suspect" objected to the array of beauty provided by Headquarters, on the ground that none of our ladies, except one, resembled her!

Things do not often go wrong, however, and it is interesting to see just what consideration is given by the police to a suspected person. He (or she) is allowed to stand in any selected place, to have the parade moving, or minus overcoats or spectacles.

This close liaison with the police, however (only a dozen paces separate Headquarters from the Police Station) did not prevent an enterprising individual from entering Headquarters under cover of darkness not long ago. This person helped himself to an old hat, "borrowed" a brush with which to brush it, presumably donned a sports jacket which had been hanging behind one of the doors, partook of a cup of milk in one officer's room, picked up the Chairman's brief case, and vanished.

WHAT DO YOU DO? There is reason to believe that some members of the Commission's staff have unusual hobbies; one or two examples are already to hand, and of these more anon. Meanwhile, what do YOU do in your spare time? If it is away from the usual run of occupations, why not let us hear from you?

AULD REEKIE DANCES The winter dance of the Edinburgh Office staff, held last month, was the most enterprising venture attempted to date by the active Social Club Committee, and the measure of success can be judged by the number of enquiries received as to the date of the next event. Prominent among the visitors was a strong contingent of students from the Glentress School, while HARRY HENRY, late founder and secretary of the Social Club, made a special trip from Shrewsbury for the occasion.

Notable features of a most enjoyable evening were JOE HOGARTH'S rather complicated but hilarious novelty event, in which balloons and pins played a vital part; the piping of ALASTAIR CAMPBELL, immaculately kilted, during the strenuous Eightsome Reel and the popular Gay Gordons; the splendid singing of Mr. SCOTT, a commercial associate of the Stores Section, accompanied at the piano by Miss MCGREGOR; and a very polished display of "jiving" by Miss ANN BROOKS. During the evening prizes were distributed by Mrs. J.M. MASSIE and Miss Brooks.

Secretary BILL ELLIOTT must not be forgotten. He not only bore the brunt of organising the event, but on the big night was seen dashing hither and thither, his pockets loaded with cash, prizes and what not. A fine effort, BILL ELLIOTT -- and, says our correspondent, everyone is agreed that the next dance can't come soon enough.

MORE ABOUT THE JOURNAL After being with the printers since May, it is likely that the Forestry Commission Journal will be published this month.

In regard to the 1949 Journal the Editor, R.G. BROADWOOD, states that he would like each Conservancy to make a point of submitting at least four articles totalling, say, 4,000 words, together with half a dozen miscellaneous notes of about 250 words apiece. But, says the Journal editor, don't try to adhere too strictly to these suggestions as to lengths; some Conservancies may have more to write about than others. The following may be superfluous, but where articles are concerned the usual formula should be used - i.e., there should be a few words of introduction, followed by a concise statement of what the author intends to talk about; then should follow a discussion of the problem or subject under review, with examples to illustrate and emphasise the various points made; finally there should be a concise "winding up", during which one's findings are given.

It will greatly assist the editor if all articles are typewritten in double spacing, and on one side of the sheet only. The author's name, address, rank and charge should be clearly stated on the article, and the finished product sent to Mr. Broadwood through Conservator. Where the time factor is concerned, the sooner contributions reach London the better.

AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM On Remembrance Sunday, in the Presbyterian Church at Kielder, Conservator North East, England (Mr. G.L. BATTERS) unveiled a memorial plaque to men of Kielder who gave their lives in the two world wars -- "all those who fell in the last war were employees of the Commission.

The plaque contains the names of :

1914-18. DAVID JACKSON, MATHEW ROBSON. 1939-1945. ANDREW FLETCHER, ALEX WEIR, JOHN BIRD, EDWARD FIDLER, RAYMOND TERRY, GEORGE GLENN DUNNING.

In this tiny country church in the North Tyne Valley the villagers gathered in much the same way that thousands assembled throughout town and countryside elsewhere, their only thought to pay homage to men who had made the supreme sacrifice. Not only was the church crowded, but many listened from an adjoining room to the simple service conducted by the Rev. J. FAIRLIE, of Falstone, who has charge of the Kielder Church. The wreaths included one from the Department, inscribed "From the Forestry Commissioners and their Staff".

In his remarks Mr. Fairlie commented on the Commission's extensive development of Kielder, and expressed the hope that a community life would grow up there which would have the church as its centre.

We, too, salute these men of Kielder whom age shall not weary nor the years condemn.