

QUANTOCKS CONTROVERSY

THE "HAVE-YOUR-CAKE-AND-EAT-IT" FOREST

LAST MONTH WE REFERRED to the "storm" which has arisen to disturb the peace of the Quantock Hills in Somerset. Our opponents, however, are not having things entirely their own way, for a local Trades Council has unanimously passed a resolution applauding the Commission's proposals to acquire and plant some 1,200 acres of land at East Quantoxhead.

YOU AND THE NEED FOR ECONOMYA Message From THE CHAIRMAN

You will all have read about the drive for economy in public expenditure, and no doubt you have already discussed the country's economic plight with your colleagues and work-mates. Nevertheless, through the medium of The Slasher I do want to stress the fact that it is the duty of us all to do everything in our power to achieve economy without sacrifice of efficiency.

How, then, are we to set about this task?

In our particular job, as in private life, there are several ways of reducing expenditure. We can cut out those things we would like to go on doing, but which are not really essential at the moment; we can find a cheaper way of doing those things which we must do; or we can modify, or even abandon, the objectives we have set ourselves. It goes without saying that the last is the least palatable of the three, and whether we like it or not it may become necessary if we fail to take effective action under the other two headings.

Where we are concerned the Commissioners, consistent with the money available to them, can and will issue instructions as to the scale on which certain work is to proceed. They can also decide on priorities of work and, by methods of organisation, seek possible economies.

But our undertaking is scattered, and is completely unlike a factory where all operations can be brought under centralized supervision. To a great extent, then, economy in our departmental expenditure inevitably depends on the goodwill and commonsense with which individuals everywhere - in the field or at the office desk - approach the problem. Therefore I ask, and I am sure I shall not ask in vain, for that active co-operation which is so essential if we are to surmount the present crisis in our national fortunes. Believe me, every one of you can help in this - even those of you who hold junior posts and may feel that anything you could do would be too small to be worth while. Even a cheerful smile given with willing service is a real help.

I have travelled a great deal in the last year - in Australia and in North America - and the most frequent question, direct or implied, that I have had to answer is "Will Britain make a 'come-back'?" And my answer has always been "Of course she will. The British don't stay down".

So come along, here is something we can all do and derive much satisfaction in the doing.

Those who are not well versed in the economics of forestry might with advantage consider the following facts, for the existing Quantocks Forest is a grand example (which, mark you, will be repeated in due course in all our forests) of having your cake and eating it. There are nearly 1,800 acres of plantations at Quantocks, established on felled woodland which was cut in the first world war, and had not the Commission acquired the area it is almost certain it would have remained derelict.

Nearly 1,700 acres of plantations are now self-supporting, for last year we spent £18,000 (almost wholly on wages), but thinning produced £19,000. The credit balance, it should be noted, will increase annually, and is estimated at £5,000 for this year; at the same time the capital value of the woods is growing, due to the increase in volume (and therefore price) of the remaining tree crop.

The foregoing may seem elementary, but nevertheless we make no apology for bringing it to your notice. It is understandable that by and large we who toil not in the field can have but little conception of the financial values of the forests we

know only by name. To carry the matter further, then, if a comparison is made between Quantocks and a banking account, the 135,000 tons of timber now in the forest may be regarded as capital on deposit, which is increasing at about 5 per cent per annum; the whole of this 5 per cent is not re-invested, but a proportion is taken out to meet current expenditure on wages, etc., for the benefit of the woods - this proportion is at present the £18,000 mentioned above. It is calculated that by 1970 the capital will be about 300,000 tons of timber, of a size suitable for sawmill purposes.

About 60 local men are given employment at Quantocks, and it is a safe bet that the £15,000 they draw in wages each year is all spent in the immediate vicinity of the forest.

**** PRESENTATION TO FORMER CONSERVATOR**

CHEQUE WILL BUY OAK BOOKCASE

members of the Conservancy staff. The presentation was made by Mr. O.J. SANGAR, Director, England, who was introduced by Mr. G.W. BACKHOUSE, who has succeeded Mr. Hopkinson. The Director paid tribute to Mr. Hopkinson's work during his 30 years' service and in reply Mr. Hopkinson expressed his thanks to all for the gift and for the goodwill of the contributors. He explained that the money would be used to purchase a bookcase which would be constructed of English oak to his requirements by a craftsman in Yorkshire.

THE PURE WHITE SPARROW.

FORESTER E. GRIGOR, Glenisla, Angus, (East Scotland) lives almost 1,100 ft. above sea level in the beautiful Glenisla Valley. To his garden he has an unusual daily visitor-- a pure white sparrow.

This feathered oddity is an accepted member of the flock.

AT THE CAMBRIDGE OFFICE recently Mr. A.D. HOPKINSON, who has retired from office as Conservator, East England, was presented with a cheque for £51:10., this sum being subscribed by

In addition to Mrs. Hopkinson and members of the Cambridge office staff, representatives from the Director's office and the Conservancy field staff were present. A message from the CHAIRMAN (absent in America at the time of the presentation) was read. Following the ceremony Mr. Hopkinson was host at an informal sherry party.

**** THE TALE OF THE WALLABY**

UNUSUAL VISITOR TO HAZELBOROUGH

AN UNUSUAL EVENT occurred here recently, writes Forester G.F. BEASLEY, of Hazelborough, East England. A Wallaby escaped from a small private zoo which is maintained in a village a few miles away from Hazelborough, and later turned up in Silverstone, a village on the north-east of the forest. Nevertheless, it could not be caught, and in due course it made its way into the forest and disappeared, its presence being evident only because of damage caused to standing beech trees. The bark was torn off in pieces around the base of the tree; I doubt, however, if the bark was eaten - it seemed to me that the animal was seeking something under the bark, probably the cambium layer and sap. The number of trees affected was comparatively small.

About three weeks after its escape, the Wallaby was seen by two local men to be crossing a main road which passes through the forest. They left their lorry and gave chase, and eventually captured the animal by throwing a coat over its head. It was then taken to the local police station. Unfortunately the end of the story is not a happy one, for while at the police station the Wallaby was placed in a hut and broke its neck during its struggles.

**** ALLERSTON EMPLOYEE AS ROBIN**

HOOD AIDS OPERATIC SOCIETY.

FOR SEVERAL MONTHS MR. J.S.R. CLOSE, a tractor driver at Allerston, North East England, has assisted the Scarborough Amateur Operatic Society by playing the part of Robin Hood. He normally wears a beard, and was one of two members of the Scadeburg Archery Club to be selected by the Society to play the part of Robin when the latter shoots for the Golden Arrow. From June until the end of September the Society was playing in the Scarborough Open Air Theatre.

**** VIEWS FROM FORESTS**

FROM HAGGIS HILL TO THE ISLAND OF ARRAN.

FROM HAGGIS HILL, in Changue Forest, Ayrshire, can be seen some impressive views. Mr. H. TRUCKNELL, of the South Scotland Conservancy Office, Dumfries, writes of these after reading in last month's issue of what can be seen from St. Asaph, North Wales. To the north west of Changue he says, one sees the whole Island of Arran with its splendid peaks and bays and headlands, together with the Firth of Clyde, Ailsa Craig, and the far-off mountains of Argyllshire. To the west can be seen the Isle of Man and the Mountains of Mourne in Northern Ireland, the Mull of Galloway and Luce Bay; far to the south across the Solway is St. Bee's Head and the mountains of the Lake District and one's view extends as far as Black Coo near Barrow-in-Furness. To the east the great range of the Galloway Hills rises to the Merrick, and one also sees the shires of Wigtown and Kirkcudbright. Truly the whole is a varied and magnificent panorama, yet the height of Haggis Hill is only some 1,850 feet.

Forester D. CLARK may be justly proud of the setting in which his forest has been established.

**FOREST WORKER'S ACCIDENT

INJURED BY MORTAR BOMB

WE REGRET TO REPORT that a serious accident recently befell DENNIS WALDRON, a young Forest Worker at Glasfynydd, South Wales. It is understood that during harrowing operations, in which Dennis Waldron was taking part, a mortar

bomb was unearthed. This exploded, with the result that he was badly cut about the feet, legs and face. He was taken to Brecon War Memorial Hospital and detained.

**FAMILIAR FACES: NEW PLACES

TWO MONTH'S TRANSFERS

THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS had been reported to Headquarters in the two months ending 19th September.

Divisional Officer G.F. BALLANCE from Bristol, SW(E) to Cambridge, E(E); District Officer D.S. SPRAGGAN from Fort Augustus, N(S), to Peebles, S(S); J.D. McNAB from Selkirk, S(S) to Dornoch, N(S); S.W. ROGERS from Kielder, NE(E), to Santon Downham, E(E); E.M. CONDER from Santon Downham to Thornton-le-Dale, NE(E); W.P. THOMSON from Edinburgh (Director, Scotland) to Glasgow; S.A. SIMMONDS from London (Director, England) to Lyndhurst, New; B.R. FEAVER from Bridgeton, E(S), to Edinburgh; R.O. DRUMMOND from Dornoch to Fort Augustus; P.F. GARTHWAITE from Thornton-le-Dale to Kielder.

Head Foresters C.R. WELLINGTON from Halwill, SW(E), to Rendlesham, E(E); W. MURRAY from Ratagan, N(S) to Millbuie, N(S); Foresters W. MACKAY from Millbuie to Culloden, N(S); J.H. COOPER from Alice Holt, SE(E), to Goodwood, SE(E); R. LAWES from Goodwood to Bere, SE(E); W.P. SMITH from Shouldham, E(E), to Gaywood, E(E); A.G. FULFORD from Stockley, New, to Wareham, SW(E); A. MCKAY from Morangie, N(S), to Ratagan; D.H. CARMICHAEL from Benmore School to Knapdale, W(S); R. LINDER from Strathgryre, W(S), to Culbin, E(S); A.R. McCLAREN from Newcastleton, S(S), to Benmore School.

Foremen R.G. BRAINE from Mendip, SW(E), to Wilsey Down, SW(E); R.G. FIFE from Collingbourne, SW(E), to Hartland, SW(E); H.D. MORRIS from Strathmairn, N(S), to Rumster, N(S); T.N. TERRY from Warke, NE(E), to Chirdon, NE(E); W. GRANT from Kershope, NW(E), to Mortimer, NW(E); B.H. SAINSBURY from Homsley, New, to Stockley, New; J.D. CARRINGTON from Harwood NE(E), to Widehaugh, NE(E); W.F. SKENE from Culbin to Delgaty, E(S).

Assistant Engineer G.F. JONES from Cambridge to Chester NW(E).

Executive Officers T.D.H. MORRIS from Aberystwyth to Shrewsbury; A.E. BEEDLE from Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth; Miss A.M. PIDGEON from Finance, H.Q., to Office of Director, England; R.H. FISHER from Aberystwyth to Shrewsbury; R. PALMER from York to Finance, H.Q.; E.T. CHANNON from Lyndhurst to Woking; D.J. CRABB from Office of Director, England, to Finance, H.Q.; Miss K.M. TURNER from Woking to Office of Director, England.

FORESTRY COMMISSION SPORTS PARADE (No.2)

THE PRINCE OF ALL-ROUNDERS

AT CHIDDINGFOLD, SOUTH EAST ENGLAND, is stationed FOREMAN ANDREW FORREST, outstanding West Surrey cricketer. As Captain of the Dunsfold Cricket Club he has twice held the

cup awarded to the best all-rounder.

His performance against Godalming at Dunsfold in July was probably the cricketing feat of 1949. He took all 10 wickets for 22 runs, performing the hat trick to dismiss the last three men; six of his victims were clean bowled. Foreman Forrest then grasped his bat and scored 53 of his team's 71 runs; he carried his bat through the innings. It was his showing in this match which gained for him honourable mention in a London evening newspaper, while such achievements as 6 wickets for 8 runs (against Sutton and Cheam R.A.F. Assn.) frequently bring glory to his team through the local Press.

By early September this year, Foreman Forrest had performed the hat trick three times and had taken 120 wickets in only 24 matches. Our friend, by the way, is also goalkeeper for the Dunsfold Football Club, and many a game has been won because he has been between the posts. While a student at Parkend Forester Training School he won the Lydney and district table tennis cup in the handicap tournament.

(More contributions to this Sports Parade feature will be welcomed. If you are good at or excel at some sport or other, please reveal it. No need to be shy; the Editor hereby sets the ball rolling by confessing he holds a Shove's penny championship. He will be glad to discourse on this particular sport at a later date.)

PRESENTATIONS

DIVISIONAL OFFICER G.F. BALLANCE was recently presented with a toilet and shaving kit in a leather case, together with a leather weekend case, as a parting gift from his colleagues in the South West Conservancy, England. Mr. Ballance has been transferred to East Conservancy, England. The presentation was made by the Conservator, Mr. A.H. POPERT.

In the office of Director, England, Mr. A.F. CARVOSSO was presented with a travelling case and a set of the works of Dickens as gifts from colleagues on the occasion of his leaving the Commission to rejoin the RAF.

**** BRASH UP YOUR GAELIC** DELVING INTO THE ORIGIN of the Foresters' technical terms, Publications Officer H.L. EDLIN has found that a likely source of the verb "to brash", used to describe the cutting off of side branches from young trees, is the Gaelic bris, pronounced "brressh", and meaning "to break or splinter." But the adjective "brash" applied to weak timber comes from Gaelic brisg, pronounced "brresshg", meaning "brittle: apt to break". Stob, for a fence post, is pure Gaelic; the same word is used for a steep, isolated hill. Scots foresters always "sheugh-in" their young trees, but Englishmen "heel" them in; as "sheugh" is probably derived from Gaelic shail or shallach, meaning a heel, it comes to the same thing.

Can anyone tell us of other odd words, used locally in the woods but not found in the dictionary?

**** VISIT TO ALICE HOLT** MEMBERS OF THE CLERICAL STAFF of the South East England Conservancy office, Woking, under the chaperonage of District Officer A.W. WALLINGTON, visited Alice Holt Forest. There they were welcomed by District Officer A.R. SUTTON and Forester T.H. ASTON. An extensive tour of the plantations had been arranged and the guides were bombarded with questions. Much interest was taken in the group regeneration system of hardwoods. "It was noticed", writes EO E.G. HANSFORD, of Woking, "that the sense of achievement in the work of timber production was shared by all members of the party, and one can safely say that despite controversy on the matter of nationalisation, there is at least one nationalised industry in the country whose work is of immense value".

**** FOR WHOM THE BELLS RANG** CONSERVANCY ENGINEER T.L. CLARK, South Conservancy, Scotland, has married Miss ELLICE CARSWELL, of Dalbeattie. Bridegroom was presented by Mr. R.E. FOSSEY, on behalf of the staff, with a vacuum cleaner, and proceeded to demonstrate value of the gift by cleaning his room.....Director, Wales, recently presented cheques on behalf of the staff at Aberystwyth to Miss H. LEWIS and Miss V. BEATTIE, both of whom had announced their impending marriage. They subsequently became respectively MRS. D. ALLEN and Mrs. PHILIP MILES. Mr. Allen, by the way, was once on the Commission's surveying staff.....Great Eversden Church was the scene of the marriage between Miss Eileen Day, of the East England Conservancy Office, to Mr. ANTHONY HUDDLESTONE. Gifts were presented to Miss Day by Mr. F. CLARK on behalf of the Conservancy office staff.

**** THE LAST ROUND-UP** MISS ANNE SMITH, of the South Scotland Conservancy Office, Dumfries, made a pretty picture when she appeared in a national newspaper as a typical "Holiday Girl" peeping round a cliff at Colvend. (Rather like Eve spying on Adam, remarks our correspondent).....Members of the Welsh Directorate office cricket team have been stock-taking. Thirteen matches were played, five being won and eight lost. On paper not very impressive, but nevertheless great benefit has been derived from the matches and a healthy brown tan from tops of bald heads to manly chests offsets the lumbago twinges; best matches of the season have without doubt been those against the Ministry of Agriculture staff, and pride is taken in complimentary remarks by Mr. Morgan Jones, the Welsh Secretary.....South East England Social Club lost at tennis to Woking Post Office, four sets to five.....Playing their last game of the season, Edinburgh Office cricket team won a hard match against Glentress Forester Training School.

Extract from letter (typewritten) received in the office of Director, England, from an enquirer who had asked for, and been given, details of the Forest Workers Holding scheme: "I would like to become a tenant under the Workers' Holiday Scheme you mention".

Just dilly-dallying -- Suggested Commission slogan: "I pine for thee". And a "wise-crack": She was only a Forester's daughter, but she looked Oke on the beach.

THERE IS A SLASHER CORRESPONDENT IN EACH DIRECTORATE AND CONSERVANCY OFFICE
PLEASE KEEP HIM WELL SUPPLIED WITH CONTRIBUTIONS.