

THE DEDICATION SCHEME
OFFICIALLY RECOMMENDED
TO WOODLAND OWNERS

MOST IMPORTANT NEWS for some considerable time is that the United Kingdom Forestry Committee has decided to recommend the Dedication Scheme to its constituent members. While there has always been general agreement on the principles of dedication, response by private woodland owners has not been as enthusiastic as it might have been, and there has been a considerable amount of criticism to the effect that the economic advantages of the scheme were not sufficiently attractive. Owners, through the Committee, have therefore pressed for modifications, and certain changes have now been agreed.

The principle alterations, which apply to both Basis I and Basis II, make provision, subject to certain conditions, for an owner to obtain release from dedication in respect of the whole or part of his woodlands, and for the appointment of an independent Investigating Committee to advise the Commissioners in any cases of dispute as to whether forest operations have been properly carried out. Furthermore, where the all-important matter of finance is concerned, there are to be increased planting and maintenance grants for owners who participate in the scheme under Basis II -- the planting grants are increased from £10 to £12 per acre and the maintenance grants from 3s.4d. to 4s. per acre, subject to revision after October, 1951.

It is now to be hoped that owners will give the scheme the support it deserves, so that in the shortest possible time flourishing plantations may take the place of those unsightly felled areas which today pock-mark the face of Britain.

** PASSING OF MR. C.R.C. PINK
DEPARTMENT'S GREAT LOSS

IT IS WITH THE GREATEST REGRET that we have to announce the passing, on January 18th after a fairly long illness, of Mr. C.R.C. PINK, Senior Executive Officer at Headquarters. A tribute to him is paid by "A.D.P.", whose remarks reflect the great esteem in which he was held by all who were privileged to work with him.

WELCOME, LITTLE STRANGER

There is news from Ae, Britain's first forest village, which is being built in Dumfries-shire.

Readers of The Slasher will recall that tenants of the first few houses to be completed recently moved in, among them being Forester and Mrs. JAMES FLETCHER.

Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher have become the parents of Ae's first baby -- Joseph Peter Fletcher. Congratulations!

"Pink has passed away, and the old 'gang' suffers another loss, this time more complete than that which is brought by departure for a happy retirement. During the past 10 years in the Commission and Home Timber Production Department his job brought him into contact with a wider circle of colleagues, outdoor and indoor, than perhaps any other single member of the indoor staff. He took 'Headquarters' to the forest, and brought the 'Forest' to Headquarters. He was liked wherever he went, and was

held in considerable affection by those who knew more intimately.

"Pink's Civil Service career began in the Ministry of Health 36 years ago, but he joined the Commission soon after the 1914 - 1918 war (in which he served as a pilot in the R.F.C.). He served at Hereford, Cardiff, Exeter and Headquarters, London. During the recent war he was seconded first to the Home Timber Production Department and later to the North German Timber Control. He returned to the Commission (Headquarters) in April, 1947. Those of us who worked closely with him recognised him as a very knowledgeable colleague, able to see the wood from the trees, and especially able to see the other man's point of view. Reserving his right to criticise, he was yet a most loyal member of the team and never spared himself in doing his job. He had the complete confidence of his colleagues, and for long periods represented them on Staff organisations.

"His interests were wide and varied; he was the author of several booklets, and he was no mean yachtsman.

"Pink has sailed away, but the regrets of his friends and colleagues are mingled with

pleasant memories of their associations with him. Deepest sympathy is extended to his widow and family."

The cremation took place at Southampton on the 23rd January, and 12 colleagues from the Commission were present. A floral tribute was sent "with deepest sympathy from all colleagues in the Forestry Commission."

** STAFF SUGGESTION SCHEME

SOME WELL MERITED AWARDS

A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER of suggestions, varying widely in character and containing some interesting and useful proposals, have been considered by the Committee of the Staff Suggestion Scheme. It is now possible to announce the names of those responsible for suggestions in respect of which awards were made at a meeting in December. Mr. WALTER EVANS, Chief Clerk, Cardiff, has received three separate awards. Two "guinea-winners" made useful recommendations regarding checks employed in the control of finance and the use of certain types of leave application forms; his third suggestion, which brought him three guineas, was notable for its very simplicity. It was merely that the filing holes should be punched in stationery before use.

Mr. E.F. WHITING, of Bristol, formerly a Clerical Officer and now an Executive Officer, is the richer by three guineas for having designed a form which will go a long way towards seeing that crates and other containers are returned to their rightful owners, and that consequently the Department is not out of pocket. FOREMAN F. STEPHENSON, of Kielder (Mounce), NE, England, secured an award of two guineas with his suggestion that the Ministry of Transport be asked to give priority to the allocation of Diesel railway engines to those lines which run for considerable distances through afforested land. Mr. B.R. DAVIES, of Headquarters, suggested that the normal marking of thinnings should be by an edged tool, thus saving paint, and received two guineas, and Mr. JOHN HARPER, and HEO at Headquarters, received three guineas for his proposals regarding the use of motor scooters as a means of light transport for forestry purposes.

FORESTER R.A. ALLISON, Pitmedden, East Scotland, received two guineas for his suggestion that arrangements be made with local fire services to sound the alarm in two blasts on receiving a call from the Commission. This would certainly have the effect of immediately placing on tip-toe all concerned with reinforcing forest fire-fighters.

A final word or two. The Committee points out that no action should be taken locally to implement suggestions until there is an official instruction through the normal channels.

** FORESTER TO BECOME "MINE HOST"

RETIREMENT FROM DEPARTMENT OF MR. S.W. COLWILL

HIS MANY FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES in the Commission will wish HEAD FORESTER S.W. COLWILL well on his retirement from the Department after 30 years service. For the past 25 years he has been in charge of Wareham Forest, now in the South West England Conservancy, and during that time he has played a big part in converting some 3,000 acres of unproductive heathland into a flourishing forest. But, sad to relate, he has also seen many acres of woodland destroyed by fire, and he will surely never forget the great fire of 1947, which burnt 300 acres of plantations, and about which the BBC gave a running commentary in its news bulletins.

After serving as a regular soldier from 1905 to 1915, and being in the Coast Guard Service and Munitions until 1918, Mr. Colwill was appointed Foreman with the Commission in 1920. Now, after so many years tending the needs of trees he has decided to tend the needs and thirsts of man, for he is soon to be the landlord of a "pub". Good luck, mine host!

** THE FESTIVE SEASON AT ALICE HOLT

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER. Here is news of seasonal parties at Alice Holt Lodge, the Forest Research Station. Nearly 80 people attended the annual Christmas lunch, which was served in the panelled hall. Among the visitors were Dr. I. LEVISOHN, who is well known for her work in connection with forest research, and Mr. K.R. SNOOK, Conservancy Estate Officer. Well earned thanks went to the Cook, Mrs. BUNCE, and her assistant Mrs. KNIGHT, to Miss S.B. PAGE for producing the menu-cards, and to the Canteen Committee. Some 40 children were present at the annual party for juveniles, and ROBIN FARBROTHER was a convincing Father Christmas. The programme included a film show. Incidentally, this event is becoming more and more popular. "Children", writes our correspondent, "now seem to have more than the usual two parents!"

The annual social was held towards the end of last month and, from all reports, was again a great success.

THE EARLY WORM

An adder, alert and mobile, was killed on Craigshiel Hill, Forest of Ae, Dumfries-shire, on 12th January. An unusually mild spell of weather must have aroused it from its hibernation, for it is almost unique to see an adder in winter. This was an 18-inch specimen.

(Which reminds us. In the two Spring seasons in which The Slasher has so far been published, not a single reader has written in to claim the distinction of being first to hear the cuckoo. This is an omission which needs to be remedied, and we shall be pleased to hear from any reader who feels that this year he or she is able to establish a record).

IN MERRIE ENGLAND

THE YEAR IS 1267; the scene, Cannock Chase (now one of the

Commission's largest forests in the English Midlands); and the story

A CANNOCK CANOE

runs: "WALTER de OLIVEDON, forester in fee of Teddesley, and ROGER PECHAM, riding forester of Knoc, found Thomas de Bromley, a frequent

transgressor in the forests of Stafford and Salop, in the park covers of Teddesley with bows and arrows, and he defended himself and took refuge in an oak tree and shot arrows at them, and they took him by force and delivered him to the Keeper of the Castle at Bridgenorth". (From "Historic Staffordshire", by R.K. Dent).

They were tough, mighty tough, those old foresters! What happened to the bold, bad Thomas is not recorded, but we feel he'd have been very lucky if he got away with the usual five shilling fine for "trespassing in search of coney".

TRANSFERS

THE FOLLOWING STAFF MOVEMENTS were reported to Headquarters to 19th January:

District Officers D.N. WILLIAMS, from North Petherton, SW(E) to Dunster, SW(E); G.K. Murray from Aberlour, E(S), to Speymouth, E(S); W.F. FRENCH from Bridgeton, E(S), to Mulben, E(S); Foresters F.G. ROGERS from Kirroughtree, S(S), to Dalnacallan, S(S); D.B. CRAWFORD from Kirkhill, E(S), to Tentsmuir, E(S); Foremen W.A. LOCKHART from South Laggan, N(S), to North Strone, N(S); W. MURRAY from Newcastleton, S(S), to Dalbeattie, S(S); Assistant Engineer D.J. TICKELL from Launceston, SW(E), to Wareham, SW(E).

AN INTRODUCTION TO FORESTRY

DRAUGHTSMAN W.B. TURNBULL, West Conservancy, Scotland,

writes of his introduction to forestry. This occurred

DRAUGHTSMAN'S REMINISCENCES early in the war, he says, when he was one of 300 Boy Scouts from Edinburgh who helped to extract timber from Inverliever Forest, Loch Awe, for use in the south as anti-invasion posts. We were quartered in and around Inverliever Lodge, adds Mr. Turnbull, and we travelled by bus, lorry and launch to our respective jobs. It was a hot summer, but occasionally the weather lapsed into the traditional "Scots mist", when it rained bathfully. This gave us an opportunity to witness one of the features of Loch Awe, which has a considerable rise and fall in wet seasons. The stream which flows past the Lodge rose overnight by about six feet to cover the approaches and lap the small road bridge at the foot of the drive. But by early afternoon the water had dropped to normal level.

Our work consisted of transporting trees felled by Newfoundlanders, and stacking them at the roadsides; they were then dragged by horses or tractors to the loch-side, where they were made into rafts and towed across the loch by launch for conversion at the saw-mills at Durran. Most of us travelled by launch up the loch and were dropped in parties at various piers with such names as Kilmaha, Barr Phort, and New York. The engineer-cum-navigator must have had a difficult task with 70-100 Scouts on board, for we tended to obscure his view. There were many of us-Scoutmasters and seniors who received their calling up papers while at the camp, and many of the younger lads subsequently went into the Services. Some did not return at the end of the war, and I am glad they had seen something of one of Scotland's most beautiful lochs; there are many who claim that the beauty of Loch Awe surpasses that of Loch Lomond, and I am one of those people.

Our work, I believe, was a success, and in an article in The Scotsman it was pointed out that the volume of extraction undertaken in three months would normally have taken 18 months. I still have souvenirs in the form of photographs, a single wood chip more than a foot long which was cut by a Newfoundlander, and one which will remain with me all my days -- this I got when I jumped on a stack of piled timber to avoid a passing horse and drag. The timber heeled over and my leg was trapped, and what I thought at the time was a slight knock later resulted in the removal of part of the bone and the insertion of a silver plate. That's how to get introduced to forestry -- the hard way!

FORESTRY COMMISSION SPORTS PARADE

WARRENER'S FINE BOWLING AVERAGE

THE CRICKETING RECORD of WARRENER A.G. MARTIN, of Savernake Forest, South West England, is well worthy of mention. Playing for Little Bedwyn in 1946 he took 102 wickets, the average number of runs being 3.69; the following year he took 124 wickets, with an average of 5.72 runs; in 1948 his "bag" was 104 wickets, and the average 4.70 runs; and in 1949 he took 99 wickets, the average number of runs being 5.47.

In 1948 Mr. Martin was invited to take part in a trial game for his county, but declined to do so because at the time Little Bedwyn was doing well in a competition run by a national newspaper -- a competition which was eventually won by the village.

This is, perhaps, an appropriate moment to mention that Forester J.T. WILDASH, of Savernake, has played in two trial games for his county. The forest could put out a really good team if it were not for the fact that most of the players are members of local village sides.

**WELL DONE, IAN!

IAN WOOD, A YOUNG FOREST WORKER at Chiddingfold, South East England, has been in the news. At the annual meeting of the Guildford branch of the R.S.P.C.A. he was presented by the Chairman (Sir Ralph Oakden) with a fountain pen, in recognition of his rescue of a cat which was stranded in a 50-ft. elm. It is understood that this was accomplished at considerable risk. Ian has been employed at Chiddingfold for about eight months or so, and no doubt his experience in high pruning bore him in good stead when making the rescue.

**ROMANCE IN THE NORTH WEST

DISTRICT OFFICER ENGAGED

OUR NORTH WEST ENGLAND correspondent points out that there has been little to report of late from his territory. "We have had no public functions," he says, "and for various reasons it was not practicable this year to hold our normal Christmas party. But social life **evidently continues** in private, and I am authorised to announce, which I do with pleasure, the engagement of Miss PAMELA FLOWERS a Clerk in the Conservancy Office, Establishment and Utilisation Section, to Mr. RICHARD CHARD, District Officer and Conservancy Utilisation Officer. This is **evidently** a case where the District Officer's spare time has been utilised to good advantage. We offer the couple our heartiest congratulations!"

**FIRE AT FOREST HOSTEL

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN a serious fire occurred recently at Nevis Hostel, near Fort William. The outbreak was discovered in the kitchen quarters and may have been caused by the bursting of a lamp. The whole of the wooden building was threatened, but prompt work on the part of Forest Workers A. McLENNAN, W. DOUGLAS, J. FOLEY, I. McDUGALL and cook J.F. RENWICK kept the blaze within bounds. On his arrival on the scene Forester A. MACKIE 'phoned for the Fort William Fire Brigade, and assistance was also forthcoming from a nearby Youth Hostel. The fire was under control within about 20 minutes, the damage being restricted to the kitchen, where all utensils, crockery and stores were destroyed.

**FLASHES

WEST SCOTLAND Conservancy Office accepted a challenge to a badminton match against the personnel of Loch Ard and Achray Forests. This was played at Aberfoyle in a truly sporting spirit and was won by the Conservancy Office by 6 games to 3. Sports record of the Conservancy Office is now two football matches, one cricket match and one badminton match, and with the exception of one football match, all have been won. The Conservancy Office IS OPEN TO RECEIVE CHALLENGES FROM ANY OTHER FOREST.

Extract from a letter from a super-optimist to Head Forester JONES at Delamere, NW England: "I wish to purchase a small spruce or fir Christmas tree, complete with roots in good condition, which will grow when replanted in the garden after a week indoors. I understand that you can supply these trees."

THERE IS A SLASHER CORRESPONDENT IN EACH DIRECTORATE AND CONSERVANCY OFFICE

PLEASE KEEP HIM WELL SUPPLIED WITH CONTRIBUTIONS