

THE SLASHER

Forestry Commission News

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GRANTS FOR PLANTING POPLARS

MAY BE GROWN IN LINES OR
AVENUES

THE DEPARTMENT IS FOR THE FIRST TIME offering grants to encourage the planting of poplars for timber production purposes. This is a matter in which readers of The Slasher (apart from field officers) can help by making details more widely known. Some of us will undoubtedly know a farmer or two, or someone else who owns his land, who will be glad to know that by planting poplars on hitherto idle ground he can, provided the site is suitable make for himself a useful monetary return.

If everyone who should took advantage of the Commission's offer the landscape of this country could be changed for the better, for grants are not only payable for planting in compact blocks, but for planting in lines or avenues, and there are great numbers of streams and rivers, and roads and lanes which would be beautified if flanked by poplars. The critics, no doubt, will point out that the trees are to be planted only to be felled, but not all of them will be cut at the same time.

Poplar is required in large quantities for the match-making industry, and at the present time much of this kind of timber is imported. The Commission is anxious to do what it can to reverse the order, so that as far as possible the needs of the industry are met from home timber production, and there is a reduction in the amount of money spent overseas.

The grants are payable in two forms, subject to certain conditions. That for planting in blocks is £8 per acre, an advance of £4 per acre normally being followed by payment of the balance after five years. For planting in lines or avenues the grant is two shillings per tree. Canker-susceptible poplars, by the way, and a limited number of other species, including the Lombardy poplar, will not qualify for grants. However, if any of your friends are interested, just suggest they write to the appropriate Conservator, who will be glad to send them further details.

** TIMBER FROM TINTERN USED TO CONSTRUCT THE SPEAKER'S TABLE

WHEN THE NEW Chamber of the House of Commons is completed and opened for Parliamentary business, the people of South Wales will be able to reflect with pride that timber forming part of the Speaker's table was grown in Carmarthenshire and prepared by Carmarthenshire men at the Commission's sawmill at Tintern.

It is well known that during the last war part of the Houses of Parliament was damaged by enemy action, and reconstruction is now taking place. Meanwhile, one of the articles of furniture required is a new table for the Speaker, and the contractors concerned asked if the Department could assist by providing some suitable oak. Conservator, South Wales, forwarded the request to Tintern Forest, and there Forester A. JONES personally found some satisfactory timber which was subsequently sawn into planks at the Tintern mill. A letter has now been received from the contractors in which tribute is paid to the quality of the timber and to the Department for its co-operation.

CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER: LEAVING FOR PERSIA

MR. M.V. LAURIE, CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER, will shortly be leaving the Department, having been seconded to the Government of Persia for a period of two years.

MR. J.A.B. MACDONALD, who is at present located in Edinburgh, and holds office as Silviculturist, North, will act on behalf of Mr. Laurie during his absence.

** PROPOSAL FROM ALICE HOLT DESIGN WANTED FOR LIBRARY FITTINGS

IT IS HOPED TO EQUIP the Forest Research Station at Alice Holt with shelving and fittings made of oak from the nearby forest. There has been some felling of mature trees there of late, providing a stock of about 1,000 feet of 10-inch boarding; more will be required.

It has been suggested that among the many readers of The Slasher there may be one or two who are interested in matters of design and that they may care to make proposals as to the best way of carrying out the work in the library. If so, they should communicate with the Chief Research Officer, Forestry Commission, 25, Savile Row, London, W.1.

The library, by the way, is approximately 30 feet long by 17 feet wide, and down one side of the room there are three large windows each about 4 ft. 6 ins. wide, with a similar spacing of wall between them. At one end is a large bay window. It is proposed that the shelving shall be installed up to 10ft. high in banks between the three windows, and on the opposite side of the room.

****RETIREMENT OF FORESTER G. WOODWARD**

SERVED THE COMMISSION FOR 27 YEARS

1923 as a forest worker, and was promoted ganger and then foreman about four years later. He was promoted Forester in 1937.

FORESTER GEORGE WOODWARD, of Bickley, Allerstons, NE England, has retired after serving the Department for 27 years, and takes with him our best wishes. He joined the Commission in

****EDUCATING AN OFFICE STAFF**

VISIT TO A SAWMILLS

Officer," by J.P. WILLIAMSON; and "The Supply Function" by W. STEWART. The course has proved most helpful and enlightening, and in addition to the various lectures an interesting visit was made to the sawmills of Messrs. A. and G. Paterson, in Glasgow.

THE SERIES OF LECTURES to the office staff of the West Conservancy, Scotland, has concluded with the following: "Establishment Work," by A. LIDDELL; "The role of the Conservancy Labour

The firm is long-established, having been founded in the County Town of Lanark in 1824, and, in addition to those at Glasgow, has mills at Banchoory and Aberdeen. Over a number of years we in the West (writes our correspondent) have sold to the firm considerable quantities of boxwood logs from Inverliever Forest, and we saw with great interest the various stages of their conversion. (Some of the party were particularly interested in the manufacture of whisky cases, complete to the printing of the makers' names and lacking only the bottled refreshment!). Feminine visitors were interested in the Textile Board Shed, wherein are manufactured many thousands of boards on which textiles are wound. Messrs. Patterson also have a considerable trade in cable drums and quite recently they despatched the largest drum ever built -- 10ft. 8 ins. high, and weighing two and half tons.

****THE FOX AND THE MOLES**

A COLLINGBOURNE INCIDENT

of his dog in catching moles. Now, it seems, the dog has a rival.

FROM FORESTER R.B. HAMMOND, of Collingbourne, South West England, comes another nature note of interest. Readers may recall an earlier contribution in which he described the prowess

"When on the downland road leading to my forest", he writes, "I was surprised to see a large dog fox which -- seemingly oblivious to me -- moved off the road and on to the down. There it stood for a moment with its head on one side; then it sprang high into the air, dived into a tussock of grass, and brought out a mole with its mouth. It repeated the performance on two more occasions, each time catching a mole, and appearing to swallow it whole.

"I regret I was unable to remain longer, and when I started the engine of my van the fox immediately took to its heels. This mole-catching was quite new to me as a habit of foxes, and no doubt readers will remember that the technique was the same as that used by my dog."

In his first contribution Forester Hammond said it appeared as though his dog actually heard moles moving beneath the ground, and perhaps this was the case where the fox was concerned. Be that as it may, we would like to know whether other Foresters have witnessed similar occurrences.

****MAKING A CASE FOR HEADQUARTERS**

A STORY OF TWO DOGS

We have heard from a Field Officer who had difficulty in the past in making cases for Headquarters. His worst case, it is alleged, was when he had to make a case to despatch to Headquarters to justify having bought a dog with short legs. The animal was wanted because, being small in stature, it was able to get into the rabbit holes. But the Officer could not send a case to Headquarters because the dog had to have somewhere to live, and he needed the case in order to make him a kennel.

RECENTLY A CORRESPONDENT asked what happens to the "cases" which are made from time to time to send to Headquarters, and suggested there must be a large accumulation hidden away somewhere.

The Officer's troubles increased when, after purchasing a dog with long legs, he was again requested to make a case; but this dog, too, needed somewhere to lay his head.

at night, and so this case was also put to another use. He was asked why it was necessary to purchase two dogs, and there seemed some surprise at the perfectly logical explanation that the legs of the dog with short legs were too short to enable him to chase and catch the rabbits after he had driven them out of the holes, and so it was necessary to obtain another dog with long legs.

Headquarters' case (we're at it again) was that there should have been a compromise, with a saving of expense. The Officer might have been forgiven had he taken this to mean that he should have purchased a dog with two short legs and two long legs, which would at least have enabled it to travel more easily uphill, either frontways or sideways as the case might be, depending upon whether the short legs were at the front or side.

However, all ended happily, for one of the dogs had pups and the income from the sale thereof more than covered the cost of the two dogs, and Headquarters decided to drop the case.

****TRANSFERS: ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES** TRANSFERS REPORTED TO HEADQUARTERS by 30th June:
Divisional Officers F.E. de Uphaugh from office of Director, England, to New: J.S.R. CHARD from Research, Alice Holt, to Chester, NW(E); Foresters J.T. ANDERSON from Smales (Kielder), NE(E), to Thetford, E(E); W.H. MACKAY from Dundugh, S(S), to Glentress, S(S); W. DEAL from Holmsley, New, to Thetford; H. JOHNSON from Thetford to Wendover, E(E); S.DAVIES from Santon Downham, E(E), to West Tofts, E(E); L.H.COLES from Blandford, SW(E), to POORSTOCK, SW(E); F.A.SLATTER from Tair Onen, S(W), to Slebach, S(W); A.R.MAIR from Newton (Research) to Tulliallan (Research); M.R.CHISHOLM from Clauchrie, S(S), to Carrick, S(S); J. MELVILLE from Glentress to Clauchrie; G.S. FORBES from Clashindarroch (Research) to Kielder (Research); G.I.RUDGE from Coed-y-Rhaiadr, S(W), to Brechfa, S(W); J.S.CRAIG from Ae, S(S), to Dundugh; C.N.SIMPSON from Chirdon (Kielder), to Smales.

DEATH OF MISS B.G. ARNOLD

KNOWN TO a host of people for her cheerfulness and unfailing courtesy, Miss B.G. ARNOLD, telephonist in the Welsh Directorate Office at Aberystwyth since 1947, died suddenly last month. Her passing is deeply regretted not only by colleagues in the office in which she worked, but by all who have had occasion to telephone to Victoria House since she took charge of the switchboard. She was ever patient and painstaking in carrying out her duties, despite the fact that she was not in good health, and the Department, and Aberystwyth in particular, has lost an efficient servant.

Foremen R.I.ROBERTS from Clocaenog, N(W), to Gwydyr, N(W); J.N.JUDGE from Machynlleth, N(W), to New: W.A.LOCKHART from North Strome, N(S), to Glenhurrich, N(S); D.D.HENRY from Inverliever, W(S), to Loch Ard, W(S); A.V.REECE from Shave Green, New, to Burley, New: J.F.B WOOD from Ringwood, New, to Stockley, New: J. GRAY from Tulliallan (Research) to Newton (Research); R.MOFFAT from Fort William (Research), to Bin (Research), E(S); E.C.G. GARDNER from Lodge Hill, New, to Machynlleth; I.D.ATKINSON from Blengdale, NW(E), to Thornthwaite, NW(E).

EO A.A.COWAN from Glasgow to Aberdeen (transfer on promotion): Clerk of Works C.FORBES from Clashindarroch to Bin.

Newcomers to the Department are: District Officer D.D.MOIR, NW(E): Surveyor D.C.BAYLISS, Office of Director, Wales; E.J.TOY, Director, Wales; Assistant Engineer L.W.LOW, N(W); Executive Officers L.C.S. MATTOCK, Headquarters: G.J. HILL, SE(E); W.O. WITHERING, Research: S. LINSWORTH, NW(E), Clerical Officers M.J. WILKINSON, Headquarters; J.M. CAIE, Office of Director, England: M.S.SCOTT, SW(E); M.R.O'CONNELL, Miss P. TINGLEY, Director, England: Clerical Officer N.C.GORDON has returned from the Forces, and has gone to S.E.England.

The following have left the Department: District Officer H.WALCOT, N(W); Forester J.B. HENDRY, E(S); Foreman D.M.THOMSON, S(S); Foreman W.W.MORRISON, N(S); EO Miss J.A. McMAHON, SE(E).

****THE BEST EVER FOOTBALL TEAM?**

A CONSERVANCY LOOKS BACK

being lost by the Office staff by the odd goal. A return match is to be played in Glasgow.

THE SPORTING RIVALRY between the office staff of West Conservancy, Scotland, and Forest Workers at Aberfoyle continues unabated, and recently another football match was played, this

Meanwhile the office team, in an effort to augment their training, has played a match against the office staff of Shell-Mex, Ltd., in whose building at Glasgow the Conservancy Offices are housed.

While on the subject of football a claim has been made that the best team ever raised in the Forester Training Schools at Beaully and Benmore was that formed by the 1928-29 class at Benmore. This comprised D.ROSS, J.RUSSELL, B.CROWLEY, I.MACKENZIE, J.HARKNESS, W.H.MACKAY, A.MACKAY, J.MONTGOMERY, J.REID, J.McSORLEY and R.EDWARDS. This team carried off the Dhalling More Trophy and the McAllister Cup, and tied for the Esson League (Dunoon) championship.

A correspondent, looking back over the years, has chosen from the names of the various students who passed through the Schools what he considers would have been an unbeatable team. Here it is: D.ROSS, J.RUSSELL, B.CROWLEY, J.CHRYSTALL, A.ROSS, D.McCALLUM, J.HARKNESS, J.FRASER, J.REID, W.A.FRASER and R.EDWARDS. Unfortunately, W.A.FRASER is dead J.FRASER is in Nigeria, while D.ROSS, J.CHRYSTALL, A.ROSS and D.McCALLUM are still in the West Conservancy, Scotland.

Doubtless many readers will disagree with the above choice of players, and, if so, it be interesting to have their comments.

One further point. Our correspondent adds that he and others would like to see the results of games played by the present Benmore team published in The Slasher. For our part we shall be only too pleased to give this information, if someone at Benmore will send it along.

****THE COMPLETE COUNTRYMAN**

LISTEN TO FORESTER W.DEAL, OF THETFORD, and beat this if you can: "My name is DEAL. My mother's maiden name was BOXall. The family home is OAKley House. My wife's maiden name was BRANCH, and she is related to a BIRD. At one time I lived in HEDGEmans Road, went to school in OAKlands Avenue, and met my wife in IVYhouse Road.

****FORESTRY ON THE AIR**

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

UNFORTUNATELY THIS ISSUE OF THE SLASHER will not reach everyone in time for all to be notified in advance of the complete programme of forestry broadcasts which are to take place in the near future. Nevertheless, in the hope the information will be of use to most readers the list is given below. (The order may possibly be varied). In each case the Commission's operations and special local features will be described, and a number of the Department's employees will be heard talking about their particular jobs. The commentaries will be by Ralph Whitlock, a well-known writer on agricultural and other rural subjects

9th July - Thetford, E(E); 16th July - New; 23rd July - Kielder;
30th July - Rheola; 6th August - Thornthwaite and/or Grizedale.

****MESSAGE FROM FORMER SECRETARY**

MR.F.W.HAMILTON, who retired from the office of Secretary to the Commission at the end of last month, asks us to express his warmest thanks to the many people who have sent him their good wishes for a happy retirement. Most -- if not all -- will have had a direct reply from him. "But if I have missed anyone," he says, "I know they will understand that this is purely inadvertent, and I am deeply grateful to them for their felicitations."

****LORD ROBINSON**

READERS will be sorry to hear that LORD ROBINSON is still not fully recovered from the effects of his recent fall in Glentress Forest. He was unable to attend the meeting of the Forestry Commissioners which was held in Dunoon last month. of the 301 meetings held by the Commissioners, this was the only one he had missed through indisposition. We hope he will speedily be restored to good health.

THERE IS A SLASHER CORRESPONDENT IN EACH DIRECTORATE

AND CONSERVANCY OFFICE

PLEASE KEEP HIM WELL SUPPLIED WITH CONTRIBUTIONS -

DON'T LET YOUR TERRITORY BE OUT OF THE NEWS