

THE SLASHER

Forestry Commission News

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IN FESTIVE MOOD

NEWS OF OFFICE PARTIES

FROM FAR and NEAR have come reports of parties to mark the festive season. More than a hundred revellers, including strong representation of the field staff, attended the annual dance at Glasgow of the West Scotland Conservancy. The programme included a number of Scottish country dances. These were performed with great enthusiasm, especially by certain Foresters who shed their jackets and showed how an Eightsome Reel and "Strip the Willow" should be danced. Various prizes were won, including a bottle of whisky and a wooden plaque. The latter was beautifully turned, being inlaid with various species of timber and forming a most pleasing and effective picture of a highland loch with mountains and forest in the background. This was the work of the donor, Head Forester J. CALDER, of Carron Valley. The fortunate winner was CO A. CAMERON. The whisky was won by Miss IRVINE, forest clerk who, incidentally, must favour the popular song "A Gordon for Me". Altogether a very happy function.

At Headquarters seldom has so much fun been enjoyed by so many. There was a large attendance at the Christmas party, organised by Inforesta (Table Tennis) Club, the committee of which deserves much praise. Under the chairmanship of Mr. ERIC LEWIS this body spared no effort to make the evening a success and special bouquets must go to Miss JESSIE ROSS and Mr. E. BROWN, who worked hard in

HONOUR FOR MR. HALDANE CHARTERS

WE HASTEN to congratulate Mr. HALDANE CHARTERS, of the Finance Branch at Headquarters, who has been awarded an M.B.E. and thus receives well-merited recognition of many years' outstanding work for the Department.

Mr. Charters joined the Forestry Commission in 1921, having previously held appointments as an Assistant Paymaster with the Ministry of Food and in the Comptroller's Department of the London County Council.

The whole of Mr. Charters' service with the Commission has been in the Finance Branch, where he is now in charge of accounts, costing and statistics and general finance matters. Not long ago he was responsible for the production of a survey covering 20 years of forest fires which earned widespread praise, and was described in one quarter "as a monumental document".

We are also pleased to record that Mr. J.M. Bannerman, one of our Scottish Commissioners, has received an O.B.E. for services in connection with the Festival of Britain.

adapting the script of the pantomime "Amberella", to Mr. R. BEAGLEY, who produced the show, and to the following artistes who had the audience convulsed with laughter: Miss JEAN ALLEN (Amber); Messrs. H.G. HYEM and L.G. POWELL (Ugly Sisters); Mr. E. SPRINGALL (Old Man Sin); Mr. BEAGLEY (Fairy Queen); LEN FAGG (Charlie Prince); and the chorus of fairies, Messrs. E. BROWN, G. MORGAN, J.H. WILKINSON and J.B.S. AUDY. Mr. Brown, in fact, played a leading part in organising the whole of the evening's programme.

Mr. J. (JOE) STEELE delighted the company (and surprised all but the uninitiated) with the quality of his singing of Scottish songs. The Misses J. PRIEST and B.A. LANDIMORE were responsible for the buffet.

A warm welcome was given to a number of notable visitors, including LORD and LADY ROBINSON and their daughter, The Hon. Mrs. J. HUNT; the Director General, Mr. A.H. GOSLING, and Mrs. Gosling; the Deputy Director General, Mr. W.H. GUILLEBAUD; and the Secretary, Mr. H.A. TURNER.

The Christmas dinner at the Forest Research Station was held in the gaily decorated hall at Alice Holt Lodge. The Director, Research and Education (Mr. JAMES MACDONALD) was present and, in all, nearly 30 people attended.

Back to Scotland. The annual dance organised by the Social Club of the Scottish headquarters was held in the Grosvenor Hotel, Edinburgh. The company was more than a hundred strong, and welcomed LORD ROBINSON and the Director for Scotland, SIR HENRY BERESFORD-PEIRSE. The orchestra and the excellent floor made dancing most enjoyable and easy even for those who found the Samba more complicated than the Schottische. Sir Henry showed that he can be eminent in spheres other than forestry when, partnered by his niece, he won the elimination waltz! An excellent buffet supper completed the enjoyment of what was voted the best dance to date.

On Christmas Eve the Research Branch at Douglas Crescent, Edinburgh, held their fourth annual party for children. Two large rooms on the ground floor were transformed by decorations, coloured lights and a Christmas tree into a gay fairyland which delighted about 30 youngsters.

An hour of games preceded tea which was followed by a cinema show in which the antics of Betty Boop and Charlie Chaplin thrilled the kiddies and gave them time to regain an appetite for jellies and ice cream. Before distributing the gifts from the Christmas tree, Mr. J.A.B. MACDONALD, who has been recently appointed Conservator (South) was himself presented with a walnut occasional table from members of his staff and friends.

Over to Wales. The annual party staged by the South Wales Conservancy was again an outstanding success, due to the efforts of a committee led by Mr. E.D. BLUNDELL, who also acted as M.C. Incidentally, another seasonal note from South Wales refers to the provision by the Conservancy of Cardiff's Christmas tree. This was a 52-foot tall Douglas fir from Tintern Forest; it was erected in front of the City Hall and delighted the large crowds that gathered in the vicinity. More reports of parties in our next issue.

**A HERO HONOURED

BOYS RESCUED FROM RIVER

AT A RECENT MEETING of the Town Council of the Royal Burgh of Dumfries, Mr. ROBERT SHEARER, of the South Scotland Conservancy Staff, was presented with the parchment and medal of the Royal Humane Society by PROVOST THOMAS BELL.

The parchment recognises the saving of two boys from drowning in the River Nith. In July last Mr. Shearer, when crossing St. Michael's Bridge, saw the boys were in difficulties and promptly dived to their rescue and succeeded in bringing them to safety. It is typical of "RAB" (as he is familiarly known) that none of his colleagues were aware of this exploit until the official recognition was forthcoming.

**CONSERVATOR'S VISIT TO AMERICA

SOME INTERESTING IMPRESSIONS

FOLLOWING HIS RECENT VISIT to America, where he was the United Kingdom delegate to the International Mission on Forest Fire Protection, Mr. C.A. CONNELL, Conservator, North East England, has sent us an interesting note of some of his impressions. There were in all 33 delegates from 21 countries and Mr. Connell was away from this country for nearly nine weeks.

It is difficult (writes Mr. Connell) to pick out a few items from the wealth of impressions and memories, since pretty well everything was of outstanding interest. However, I might mention the first sight of New York - at 5.45 a.m., with the tops of the skyscrapers silhouetted against a reddish glow as the dawn broke. The lower parts of the skyscrapers, though, and the whole of the Brooklyn and Manhattan water front, were still in a darkness relieved only by twinkling street lamps on the waterside boulevard. Within 20 minutes the whole panorama of this fantastic city became visible from the Queen Mary as she slid gracefully up the Hudson River to pier 90.

Then there was the occasion when after walking along the shore of Lake Michigan at Chicago in coat and sweater, and with gloves and scarf to help offset a chill wind and temperature of 40 degrees F., a Constellation aircraft whisked me in five hours to the Gulf of Mexico and deposited me at New Orleans in a temperature of 96 degrees!! Nor shall I quickly forget the trip by coach over the Blue Ridge Parkway from Asheville to Roanoke, at heights up to 6,000 feet along the crest of the Appalachian Mountain range. Apart from the wonderful scenery it was staggering to travel the 241 miles between the two towns and never touch a village or hamlet. This was one stage of a single day's travel by coach which started at 7.30 a.m. and finished at midnight, covering 425 miles. I travelled in all more than 6,000 miles in the States, by train, airplane, and coach, and saw a lot of forests. I was delighted to find that the Forestry Commission is not lagging behind our American friends on forestry matters, and in fact manages some things better, even with the disadvantage of a more slender purse.

**FAREWELL TO TWO OFFICERS

RETIREMENT OF MR. W.H. HAMILTON AND MISS R. JACKSON

HEADQUARTERS HAS SAID FAREWELL to two officers, both of whom have retired. We mentioned, last month, the pending departure of one of them, namely Mr. W.H. HAMILTON, who was the first established officer to be assigned to the Department. Before a large assembly Mr. Hamilton received a presentation from Lord Robinson. This took the form of a cheque subscribed to by numerous colleagues, and Mr. Hamilton intends to put it towards the purchase of a radiogram.

In making the presentation Lord Robinson referred to Mr. Hamilton's long service with the Commission. In reply Mr. Hamilton traced his career in the Civil Service which, as

reported last month, commenced with the Post Office Savings Bank, and covered nearly 44 years.

Mr. B.R. DAVIES presided at a presentation to Miss JACKSON, the gift from the staff taking the form of an easy chair. Miss Jackson was a Civil Servant for some 40 years, having served for 10 years with the G.P.O. and 25 years with the Ministry of Health before joining the Forestry Commission.

Mr. Davies said Miss Jackson had set a brilliant example to juniors of what should be given to the Civil Service and recited some apt verses from Longfellow's "From my Armchair".

A bouquet was presented to Miss Jackson by Miss A.L. HUNTER.

****HONORARY WARDENS FOR WHARNCLIFFE** A CEREMONY which may be the first of its kind recently took place at Wharncliffe Forest, near Sheffield, North East England Conservancy. The first 20 trees of the first year's planting were planted by members of a local body, the Don Valley Rural Amenities Association. An electro-plated Sheffield steel spade, specially made for the purpose and presented by a well-known firm of Sheffield steel makers, was used.

A UNIQUE CEREMONY

Wharncliffe consists of 1,000 acres of devastated, though once very beautiful woodland, which lies on the north bank of the River Don and is surrounded by heavy industries. Local residents have shown great interest in our plans for replanting the area.

After the ceremony the Forestry Commission party, consisting of the Conservator, Mr. C.A. Connell, S.F.O. P.F. Garthwaite, District Officer T.G. Wood, and ex-School Ganger A. Bowns were entertained to dinner by members of the Association. Major Haythornthwaite, the Technical Secretary of the Sheffield and Peak District Branch of the C.P.R.E., was also present.

Speeches followed. The Conservator replied to the toast of the Forestry Commission and Mr. Garthwaite to the toast of the guests, and Major Haythornthwaite proposed the toast of the Don Valley Rural Amenities Association. The proceedings ended with the presentation to twelve members of the Association of cards of authority enrolling them as Honorary Wardens of Wharncliffe Forest; their services will be of great value in helping protect the plantations.

The trees planted were beech and red oak. A plaque is being erected to commemorate the ceremony and the spade, inscribed with the signatures of all who took part, is being preserved by the Association.

****A MAKER OF CLAVICHORDS** UNUSUAL HOBBIES of some of our readers have been the subject of comment in earlier issues of The Blasher. Now, from Chester, headquarters of the North West England Conservancy, comes news of a 24-years old Executive Officer who certainly pursues an out-of-the-ordinary pastime.

AN EO WITH AN UNUSUAL HOBBY

Mr. JAMES MOGFORD is a maker of clavichords; and, to refresh your memory, we would point out that the clavichord was the forerunner of the piano and most likely anticipated its box-like construction.

Mr. Mogford has already made three clavichords, an instrument which was probably first seen as long as 500 years ago. He is now engaged on the construction of a fourth. It is of interest that today there are probably only about half a dozen makers of these instruments.

****TRANSFERS** THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS have been notified to Headquarters;

Divisional Officer W.N. GIBSON from Auchencastle, S(S), to Dumfries S(S). District Officers F.J. DONALD from Edzell, E(S), to Aberdeen, E(S); G.F.d'AL SAVAGE from Inverness, N(S), to Dornoch, N(S); A.A. LINDSAY-SMITH from Ruthin, N(W), to Bettws-y-Coed, N(W); N.M. BROWN from Palmure, S(S), to Walkerburn, S(S); D. MACKAY from Santon Downham, E(E), to Fournie, E(E); I. BRETT from Beeston Regis, E(E), to Aylsham, E(E); E.S.B. CHAPMAN, from Bourne to Princes Risborough.

Foresters D.M. MORGAN from Brechfa, S(W), to Margam, S(W); T. MORRIS from Margam to Cardiff, S(W); W.S. STOTT from Bourne to High Lodge, E(E); K.B. HARVEY from CRO, Edinburgh, to Charlton, SE(E); J.F. EVANS from Coed-y-Brenin, N(W), to Lley, N(W); J. . PARKINSON

from Garcrogo, S(S), to Auchenroddan, S(S); B. PATTERSON from Auchenroddan to Garcrogo.

Foremen J. SOPPIT from Strathord, E(S), to Blackcraig, E(S); T.I.V. BELL from Cwmogwr, S(W), to Tintern, S(W); P.R. CANT from Hursley, SE(E), to Southwater, SE(E).

Assistant Engineers J.E. JAMES from Carlisle, NW(E), to Chester, NW(E); R.E. HUGHES from Halwill, SW(E), to Bristol, SW(E); J.C. MONCRIEFF from Aberdeen to Dumfries.

Executive Officers Miss I.J. WILSON from Chester to Edinburgh; K. BALDWIN from Cardiff to Aberystwyth.

Newcomers are District Officers P.W. MORGAN and F.H. WEBB to N(W); R.A. GOLDING to S(S); I.W. KIRTON to E(E); J.M. CABORN to CEO; R.J. PIPER to NE(E); R.D'O.P. JACKSON to E(S); B.P. GRABASKEY to D(W). Professional Accountant G.T. SAMPSON to H.Q.; Executive Officers B.G. ALLEN to D(W); J.F. NORTON to H.Q.; A.H. WILD to E(E); Clerical Officer C.H. DOMINEY to H.Q.

****SOMETHING FOR NOTHING**

THE PUBLICATIONS BRANCH has for disposal a number of surplus copies of reprints of forestry articles, as listed below. These will be sent free of charge to any member of our staff on application to:

REPRINTS AVAILABLE FREE

The Clerk of Stationery,
Forestry Commission,
25, Savile Row,
London, W.1.

Applicants should state in detail the titles of the reprints in which they are interested and requests will be treated on a basis of "first come, first served", as long as supplies last.

Studies on the Genus Larix (Larch), E.V. Laing; Control of Bark Beetles in Coniferous Forests, H.S. Hanson; Thetford Chase, J. Macdonald; Drummond Hill, J.M. Murray; Forest of Dean, W.L. Taylor; The New Forest, D.W. Young; Movement of Tree Classes (a study in Thinning), H. Guillebaud and F.C. Hummel; War Time Forest Fires in Southern England, H.L. Edlin; Estimation of Fire Hazard, T.R. Peace; Weeds in Forest Nurseries, H.M. Steven; Season of Planting Corsican Pine, (Research Branch); and Increment, Hummel and Brett.

****STILL MORE DIALECT**

EXAMPLES OF STRANGE DIALECT continue to reach us. The following country synonyms, for instance, were current some years ago and are probably not yet forgotten; Devonshire -- CUTTY, wren; HORMSCREECH, missel thrush; GREYBIRD, thrush; WITROT, whitethroat; WOODWALL, green wood pecker; POLLY-WASH-DISH, water wagtail; WONT, mole. Then, still heard in Devon, are THICKY, that one; SHULE, shovel; TRILL, a ditch; PURTY, pretty; MOOT, a tree stump; CRAZY, buttercup; STRIVING, living; CHEEL, girl; HALSE, hazel; DRINKINGS, tea in the harvest field, BAMBLES, clumsy. Forest of Dean -- HOW'S GWAIN, how are you going; I'D AIM, I think; HACKER, short hook; SPITTER, spade; PAIT, mid-day break; and SPLASH, to layer a hedge. Staffordshire -- PIEFINCH, chaffinch; WRITING LARK, yellow hammer.

****RECENT MARRIAGES**

AND "A FAIR COPP"

Forester Styles, we hear, showed considerable foresight in marrying a nurse; before the honeymoon was over he contracted chicken-pox!

Congratulations are also in order for Mr. J.S. BURFITT and Miss R.M. COPP, both C.O.'s in the South Wales Conservancy Office, who have become engaged.

We also offer our congratulations to Mr. JOHN OVERY, of Headquarters, and Mrs. Overy, on the birth of a daughter, and to Forester K.W. TOWNS (Clatteringshaws Forest, South Scotland) and Mrs. Towns, on the birth of a daughter.

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