

THE HARROW TRAIN CRASH

TWO COLLEAGUES ESCAPE
INJURY

Miss E.M. LOWES, Executive Officer, and Miss C. TILLEY, Clerical Officer; neither was hurt.

TWO OF OUR COLLEAGUES, both on the staff of Director, England, were passengers on the local train involved in the disastrous triple crash at Harrow and Wealdstone Station, in which 112 people lost their lives. They are

The girls were in the front of the train, which was stationary at the time of the crash. "We had both used this train for more than a year," Miss Tilley informed us, "and on the morning of the disaster I deliberately went right to the front so that I could quickly leave Euston Station. Our compartment was crowded, with six persons seated on either side and a number standing; suddenly there was a crash and we experienced a great deal of buffeting, but fortunately no one in the compartment was hurt. One of the male passengers took control in an amazing way, telling everyone to keep calm; then, when the coach eventually came to a standstill after being pushed forward, he quietly asked a passenger to open the door and saw that we alighted on the platform in an orderly fashion. I did not realise at the time that there had been a collision, for we heard surprisingly little noise; my first impression was that the boiler of our engine had burst, for we could hear the rush of steam which probably came from the engine of the Manchester express.

"Miss Lowes and I had both crossed over the footbridge which was swept away in the crash".

Miss Lowes was travelling in the second coach, the windows of which were badly smashed.

Another who regards himself as extremely fortunate is Mr. DEREK SMITH, Executive Officer at Headquarters. He has frequently used the local train but on the day of the crash decided to catch an earlier one.

**OPENING OF ANOTHER FOREST VILLAGE

NEW COMMUNITY AT DALAVICH

YET ANOTHER FOREST VILLAGE has been officially opened. This is the village at Dalavich, on the west shore of Loch Awe, in Argyllshire, which is being built to house the growing labour force at Inverliever Forest. The ceremony of opening the village and the new school was performed by Sir Bruce Campbell, Lord Lieutenant of Argyllshire, and the Director of Forestry for Scotland, SIR HENRY BERESFORD PIERSE, said the occasion marked the beginning of considerable development; the Forestry Commission had in mind that in due course, in association with the timber trade, a modern sawmill and drying kiln would be among the innovations. The aim would be to process to the fullest possible extent the timber grown in the area.

Inverliever was the first State Forest to be formed in Scotland and now has about 2,400 acres under plantations. It is a highly productive forest, having yielded, to date, some 45,000 tons of timber; the annual output is now 6,000 tons, and this figure is expected to increase to a maximum yearly output of 10,000 tons.

There has been an impressive increase in the population of the area, and in this the employment given by forestry has played a substantial part. In 1908, the year after the land was acquired by H.M. Office of Woods, the total population was 55. In 1912-13, when 600 acres had been planted, the population had increased to 87, to which forestry contributed 33; and earlier this year the total population had risen to 285, of which 232 represented forest employees and their families. Inverliever Forest now gives direct employment to about 100 men and women.

With the increase in employment there has, of course, been an increased need for more houses, and at Dalavich 31 houses have already been built and a further 17 will be created in the near future. A village shop and other amenities are planned.

At the time of the opening ceremony (and we have no news of any further increase!) there were 111 children under 16 in the area, about 100 being the children of forest workers.

Among those watching the ceremony was one who must surely be the Commission's tallest employee. He is BEN CROWE, a native of Birmingham, who is seven feet one inch tall and, before his demobilisation three years ago, he was the country's tallest National Serviceman. He takes size 15 boots and a 48 inch stride, and weighs 17 stones. He hopes soon to enter a Forester Training School.

****THE WILLIAM FORSYTH CUP
WON BY THE FIRE-FIGHTERS OF
BYLAND BEAT**

THE MEN OF BYLAND BEAT, Ampleforth Forest, North East England, have good reason to be proud. Recently they were presented by the Conservator, Mr. C.A. CONNELL, with the WILLIAM FORSYTH Memorial Cup, which is henceforth to be awarded annually to the Beat within the Conservancy which is judged most efficient in forest fire protection and fire-fighting.

This silver trophy was purchased from subscriptions to the William Forsyth Memorial Fund, which was inaugurated as a tribute to the late William Forsyth, former State Forest Officer in the NE Conservancy, who died in 1950. William Forsyth always took the greatest possible interest in fire protection matters.

The finalists were the Byland Beat, Ampleforth; Plashetts Beat, Kielder; and Redesdale, Harwood, Hamsterley and Langdale Beats. Each was tested by the State Forest Officer, Mr. PETER GARTHWAITE, and judged on the initiative, skill and commonsense and general efficiency of the competitors.

It has also been possible to meet from the Fund the cost of erecting a memorial cairn to William Forsyth. This has been raised on high ground on Mount Common, in the Kielder Forest for which he always had a deep affection.

****BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN
A FORESTER IN POLAND**

ONE OF OUR READERS --Forester E.J.D. WILKINSON, of Maresfield, South East England -- recently spent a holiday on the Continent and herewith records some of his experiences and impressions.

Forester Wilkinson, by the way, was a prisoner in Poland during the last war, having been captured by the enemy in France in pre-Dunkirk days.

"I travelled by air from Northolt to Berlin", he writes, "thence by train to Warsaw. I had the opportunity to visit several Polish forests, and saw some very large areas of beech and, where the soil is sandy, as it is in much of the country, a great deal of Norway spruce and Scots pine.

"I shall not say much about conditions in Poland. The Poles have to work very, very hard indeed for poor wages, and I felt sorry for them; the Englishman is far better off than he thinks he is. It was a relief to get to Vienna, although there I found far too many Russian soldiers for my liking; perhaps I am prejudiced, because I was made to get off the pavement by a Soviet soldier who carried a sub-machine gun!

"My journey on from Vienna, which eventually led me to beyond Passau, on the German border, was about the most thrilling I have ever experienced. The diesel-electric train covers many miles through mountain ranges, all thickly forested; it took curves and bends, and went downhill, at terrific speeds and I wondered that it kept on the rails and that the rails kept on the sleepers. The beauty of the mountains, some more than 7,000 feet high, was awe-inspiring. Sometimes the track followed a contour half way up a mountain, sometimes it went through a narrow pass, or over a viaduct, with a rushing river a long way below, and then it went through the heart of Bosruck mountain in a long tunnel. All the way (tunnels excepted!) it was trees, trees, with strips of natural regeneration here and high forest there. It was nearly all spruce.

"There was a long wait at Semmering, at the end of the Soviet sector, and here Russian soldiery went through the train, looking at everyone's papers. Four persons in my carriage were taken off, not having the correct documents. On leaving Semmering I was privileged to enter the driver's compartment; this had wide observation windows, and a notice above the driver read 'This train must not exceed 120 kilometres an hour' (75 m.p.h.), but I am sure it was ignored.

"At Linz I boarded another train, which was made up of a truly international mixture of carriages -- Hungarian, Polish, Yugoslav, Austrian, German, Italian and Belgian. I left this train some time after crossing

the German border at Passau, to look at a State forest comprising, in the main, naturally regenerated pine. Resin is obtained from thousands of the growing trees by tapping and placing a cup at the base.

"I returned home by train from Regensburg, via Frankfurt, along the Rhein valley to Cologne, then via Brussels and Ostend."

****OBITUARIES**

DEATH OF EX-FORESTER TOM PENNY

joined the Commission in 1920, commencing his career as a forest worker at Inverliever. In 1925 he was transferred to Ardgartan, and in 1931 was promoted Foreman in charge of Lennox, reaching the grade of Forester II in 1938. Mr. Penny retired from the Commission early in 1950 and took up part-time duties on an estate owned by Col. Ewing, of Arngomery, Kippen. He was working on the estate when he collapsed and died.

Tom Penny was a man of sterling character, although quiet and unassuming in his ways; his passing is deeply felt by his former colleagues.

The death has also occurred suddenly of Ganger J. GRIFFITHS, aged 61, who went to Kinver Forest, North West England, when it was started in November, 1948. He became ill some two and a half years ago and spent periods in hospital, but for a long while afterwards, despite poor health, he continued to work. He was a conscientious employee whose loss is keenly felt by the forest staff. In the war years Mr. Griffiths served with H.G.T.P.D.

We have also to record the passing of Mr. ANTHONY SIMPSON, a former employee of the Department who served for many years at Alice Holt. Born 83 years ago, Mr. Simpson served with the Office of Woods, which he joined in 1908, as Head Woodman, and was transferred to the Forestry Commission in 1924. He retired in 1933. Mr. Simpson held a number of bronze and silver medals awarded by the Royal Scottish Arborical Society, one being for the invention of a wire fencing machine.

The death has occurred of Mr. H.C. VENTRESS, a forest worker with 26 years' service. A single man, aged 57, he began work on the Dalby Beat of Allerston Forest, North East England; he helped plant the slopes where we are now felling second and third thinnings, and has seen the conversion of Dalby Warren and Allerston Moor from bare ground to high forest.

****THE NON-STOP CABLEWAY**

NOW WORKING IN SCOTLAND

here inasmuch as it employs the principle of a continuously moving, endless cable on which timber, which must first be cross-cut in the woods, can be hooked at any point. Special clips are used for the purpose of attaching the timber and unloading can be carried out without stopping the cable. Motive power is supplied by a winch.

The cableway is suspended on pulleys which are easily attached to standing trees by a simple chain device. It can be taken round corners, so to speak, and up and down hill, and can move up to about 1,500 hoppus feet of timber per day.

The cableway in question was seen at Aultsight, on the shores of Loch Ness, and was being used by a timber merchant.

****TRANSFERS**

THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS have been notified to Headquarters: District Officers R.A. INNES from H.Q. to Fort Augustus, N(S); J. STIRLING from Knapdale, W(S), to Auchen Castle, Moffat, S(S); F.H. WEBB from Llandrindod Wells, N(W), to Borth, N(W); D.H. WALLACE from Cardiff, S(W), to Caerphilly, S(W); E.S.B. CHAPMAN from Princes Risborough to Stamford, E(E). Head Forester B.H. KING from Micheldever, SE(E), to Arundel, SE(E).

Foresters W. McCLEMMONT from Glenhurich, N(S), to Strathconon, N(S); B.H. SAINSBURY from Burley, New, to Hurn, New; T.W. THOMAS from Gwydyr, N(W), to Beddgelert, N(W); R. WALLIN from Alton, SE(E), to Shere, SE(E);

G.I. RUDGE from Brechfa, S(W), to Brecon, S(W); S. DAVIES from Thetford Chase, E(E), to Dean; S.J. LAW from Shere to Charlton, SE(E); A.G. JOHN from Chepstow, S(W), to Tintern, S(W); W.H. WILLIAMS from Tintern to Llandeilo, S(W); M.P. SALMOND from Redesdale, NE(E), to Doncaster, NE(E); E.H. LEUTSCHER from New Forest to Thetford Chase; J.H. THOMAS from Crychan, S(W), to Tintern; K.D. HARVEY from Charlton to Micheldever; W.E. MORGAN from Giedd, S(W), to St. Gwynno, S(W).

Foremen A. LEISHMAN from Newcastleton, S(S), to Tinnisburn, S(S); J. FRANCE from Rothbury, NE(E), to Kielder, NE(E); N. DRYSDALE from Kilsture, S(S), to Carrick, S(S). Assistant Engineer F.C. EGERTON from Coed-y-Brenin, N(W), to Gwydyr.

Clerical Officers R.G. HARRIS from Woking, SE(E), to Research, Alice Holt; D.J. TYRE from Research, Alice Holt, to Woking; A.C. STAMMERS from York, NE(E), to Headquarters.

Newcomers are Assistant Engineer W.C. ANDERSON to D(L). Clerical Officer J. RAMSON to NE(E). Executive Officer M. MARTIN has returned from H.M. Forces to Headquarters.

**NEWS FROM WALES

OUR ABERYSTWYTH CORRESPONDENT REPORTS:

Golf. The Office of Director, Wales, harbours many keen golfers, two of whom distinguished themselves in local tournaments this year. Mr. E.R. HUGGARD, Planning Officer, won the Bown Cup and has been presented with an inscribed replica as a permanent reminder of his feat. Mr. J. RAFTREE, Messenger (accustomed to having both arms full!), carried off both the Sir George Fossett Roberts Cup and the Coronation Cup -- a highly commendable performance. Plain English (Extract from a Forestry Lease): "The right to take water from the well at or near the Point A marked on the said plan". "Note. The point A referred to in the foregoing reservation is the point marked X on the said plan marked B". Why Not Use a Key? An A69 received received at the Welsh Directorate Office recently asked for "1 Slasher, 8" -- for the opening of Village Hall,....."

Liaison With M.A.F.! Best wishes to District Officer E.J.M. DAVIES, Aberystwyth, and Miss BETI EVANS, who have wed. The bride is a C.O. employed in the offices of the National Agricultural Advisory Service, Crosswood Hall, near Aberystwyth.

**LOCAL COLOUR

OR THE FOREST FIRE PLUS

TALK OF FIRE being the Foresters' worst enemy! We were left in no doubt after reading the following account in a local newspaper of a recent fire in one of our forests.

"Nearly a quarter of X Forest, famous,..... beauty spot,....., was destroyed yesterday when fire swept over 50 acres of the forest Fire brigades from two counties and squads of Forestry Commission employees fought the flames which, fanned by a high wind, threatened the remainder of the forest. Hundreds of wild animals were burnt to death as they tried to escape from the burning undergrowth and birds dropped to the ground like flaming torches. Thousands of valuable trees were destroyed in the forest, which is owned by the Forestry Commission. But firemen kept the flames away from farms and cottages in the area. A new scheme worked out between the fire authorities and the Forestry Commission, which provided for large static water supplies at selected points in the forest, was put into operation for the first time. To supplement this supply, fire brigades rushed four water tenders, capable of carrying hundreds of gallons of water, to the forest

The firemen used walkie-talkies to co-ordinate fire fighting throughout the sprawling forest. No one was injured in the fire. The extensive damage to the trees has not yet been estimated".

The report lacks only such descriptive phrases and words as "great conflagration" and "holocaust". Readers will, however, be glad to know that the said fire resulted only in the loss of three and a quarter acres of almost valueless oak coppice and some birch, out of the total forest area of more than 3,000 acres; fire appliances could not get within a quarter of a mile of the fire and only beaters were used. According to the District Officer, two rabbits were found to have had their fur singed.

IF YOU DO SOMETHING, SEE SOMETHING, OR HEAR SOMETHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY, TELL YOUR SLASHER CORRESPONDENT. THERE IS A CORRESPONDENT IN EACH DIRECTORATE AND CONSERVANCY OFFICE