

RETIREMENT OF MR. W. H. GUILLEBAUD

"ARCHITECT OF OUR RESEARCH
ORGANISATION"

MR. W. H. GUILLEBAUD, our Deputy Director General since 1948, has retired; taking with him the good wishes of us all but leaving us extremely conscious of the loss of a wise counsellor and a very good friend.

As already stated in The Slasher, Mr. Guillebaud has given nearly 40 years' service to forestry, having joined the Forestry Branch of the former Board of Agriculture in 1919. He became Research Officer of the Commission on the inception of the Department in 1919 and later served as Chief Research Officer, becoming Director of Research and Education in 1946. His outstanding achievements were summarised by our Chairman, LORD RADNOR, who in making a presentation to Mr. Guillebaud on behalf of colleagues, described him as "the architect of our research organisation, which has the highest reputation in forestry circles throughout the world".

A FAREWELL MESSAGE

When your Editor asked me to write a short farewell message for The Slasher I readily agreed but I did not realise what a difficult task he had set me. After almost 40 years in forestry it is a big wrench to leave it all and to have to say goodbye to so many friends throughout the Service. Apart from this, the feeling uppermost in my mind is a sense of pride in having shared in such a great and successful undertaking. Our new forests can vie with those in any part of the world, and from being the Cinderella of the Government service the Forestry Commission is now an influential, and universally respected, member of the hierarchy.

May you continue to flourish as the green bay tree!

W. H. GUILLEBAUD

The presentation referred to above took place at Headquarters, Mr. Guillebaud being the recipient of a bowl made from Dean Forest oak and a cheque for £60, which he intends to put towards the purchase of a television set. "To those of us who know him well," said Lord Radnor, "he is so much more than a forester. He is very human and a charming companion, and his advice has been sought by many a junior Forest Officer and has been gladly given. The late Chairman of the Commission once described Mr. Guillebaud as the best silviculturalist in the land, and if LORD ROBINSON did not know a good silviculturalist, then no one did."

In expressing appreciation of Lord Radnor's remarks and of the gifts, Mr. Guillebaud said he could look back on his service with the Department with "unalloyed pleasure and happiness".

**NEW CHIEF CLERK FOR WALES

MR. E. R. LEWIS MOVES TO ABERYSTWYTH

Office of Woods in 1918 and came to the Forestry Commission in 1924. He was appointed a Divisional Accountant in what is now the East England Conservancy, oddly enough in succession to Mr. Childs. In that appointment he served under Mr. A. P. LONG, who is now Director of Forestry for Wales, and other Divisional Officers, until his promotion in 1937 for work on census and plans under Mr. O. J. SANGAR, now Director for England.

MR. ERIC LEWIS has taken up his appointment as Chief Clerk in the Welsh Directorate, in succession to the late Mr. GEORGE CHILDS.

Mr. Lewis joined the forestry branch of the

The years 1939-45 saw Mr. Lewis on the other side of the world, where as a Naval Reserve Officer he served in Naval Intelligence in the West Indies and Central America. He returned to civilian life with the rank of Commander and served successively as Deputy Chief Clerk, England, and Chief Clerk, Research and Education.

It is of interest that this new appointment means that Mr. LONG, Conservator F. COWNIE, Divisional Officer W. A. CADMAN and Mr. Lewis are serving together again after a lapse of nearly a quarter of a century since they were all in East England. This is, perhaps, a pleasing reminder of the continuity and permanence of forestry as an avocation.

Incidentally, Mr. Lewis, who is now a Commander on the Retired List, was privileged to be present at the recent Naval Review at Spithead.

**H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ROYAL IN S. WALES

NAMING OF COED MORGANNWG

of Coed Morgannwg (Glamorgan Forest) on a number of our units which, between them, cover more than 53 square miles; Her Royal Highness also gave the name of Ffordd y Frenhines (The Queen's Way) to a forest road.

H.R.H. the PRINCESS ROYAL has paid her promised visit to South Wales, which was mentioned in last month's issue. The purpose of the visit was to bestow the name of Coed Morgannwg (Glamorgan Forest) on a number of our units which, between them, cover more than 53 square miles; Her Royal Highness also gave the name of Ffordd y Frenhines (The Queen's Way) to a forest road.

It was truly a memorable occasion for the forest staff and local residents. Her Royal Highness was introduced by Mr. W. H. VAUGHAN, a Forestry Commissioner, and in performing the forest naming ceremony she made a practical speech in which she referred not only to the danger of forest fires but to the problem of litter, and appealed to future visitors to Coed Morgannwg to "leave this lovely spot as you find it".

Some colourful Welsh "atmosphere" was given to the occasion by a choir of children from the Cwmavon branch of Urdd Gobaith Cymru who, in national costume, danced as well as sang.

Her Royal Highness was thanked by LORD RADNOR, who was accompanied by the Director General, Mr. A. H. GOSLING, and the Director for Wales, Mr. A. P. LONG, Mr. LLOYD OWEN, who in addition to being a Forestry Commissioner is Chairman of the Welsh National Committee, spoke of the great developments in the area and said that since 1946 some 57 miles of forest road have been constructed in the forests now forming Coed Morgannwg. Ffordd y Frenhines, by the way, is 22 miles long and passes through 14 miles of forest.

**PORTRAIT OF THE LATE CHAIRMAN

NOW HANDED TO LADY ROBINSON

THE PORTRAIT of the late LORD ROBINSON, by T. C. DUGDALE, R.A., has now been presented to LADY ROBINSON. It was handed to her ladyship by Mr. JAMES MACDONALD, Director of Research and Education, and Mr. B. R. DAVIES, on behalf of subscribers to the Portrait Fund. Lady Robinson expressed her great appreciation not only of the portrait, but of the colour prints which have been given to her for distribution to members of Lord Robinson's family and friends, in this country and Australia. The Presentation Committee has been able to provide Lady Robinson with three unique rollers for containing prints; these are specially turned from native oak.

**ON WHITE FOXES

FROM PRIVATE WOODLANDS OFFICER W. T. SMITH, of North East England, comes some interesting news about white foxes, a subject we mentioned in our May issue.

A white fox has certainly been encountered other than in Balloch Forest, South Scotland, Mr. Smith tells us. In fact, he says, he has heard of at least six such animals. In November, 1938, a white vixen was killed by the Morpeth Foxhounds in Paxdon Dene, near Longhorsley. ("I have actually seen the mounted head of this fox at the home of the M.O.H.", says Mr. Smith.) About the same time, another white fox was killed at Brinkburn by the Percy Foxhounds and this, it is thought, is still preserved at Alnwick Castle, home of the Duke of Northumberland. A third was dug out of an earth at Craggside, Rothbury, and was sent to the Edinburgh Zoo.

Mr. Smith goes on: "The Master of the Morpeth Foxhounds says he has heard on good authority that there is again a white fox in the Longhorsley district. I have heard, too, that a white cub was once trapped in the Meldon area and another was reported, during the war, in the north of Northumberland. All the six foxes to which I have referred have been albinos, but the eyes, apparently, change to blue after death."

As a footnote, Mr. Smith mentions that he saw a white woodcock which was shot some years ago at Wolsingham Park, in County Durham, and a white snipe, shot at Blenkinsop in Northumberland.

**DEATH OF EX-FORESTER T. F. HENDRIE

THE SON OF A FORESTER'S SON. This is an apt description of the late Forester THOMAS HENDRIE, formerly of East England, whose death, we regret to report, occurred recently in Cambridge Hospital.

Born in 1876 in Maybole, Ayrshire, Mr. Hendrie started work under his father, who was Head Forester to the Milton Abbey Estate, Dorset. Continuing his training, he served on several other private estates and eventually went to Messrs. Dickson's Chester Nurseries. In 1901, during his service with Messrs. Dickson's, he was in charge of planting on the Elan Valley reservoir scheme.

In 1902 Mr. Hendrie was appointed Head Forester to the Dowager Duchess of Northumberland's Stanwick Estate, then Head Forester to Cassandra, Countess of Ross; his last post in private forestry was on the Tongswood Estate in Kent.

Mr. Hendrie started with the Forestry Commission in 1926, when he took charge of the Santon Downham Beat at Thetford Chase, in East Anglia. During subsequent years, until he retired in 1945, he was in charge of various units in the Thetford and Swaffham forests.

Apart from his wide experience in forestry Mr. Hendrie had a quite astonishing knowledge of wild and domestic animals. He was a keen collector of entomological specimens; he was knowledgeable about countryside crafts and would talk with equal enthusiasm, irrespective of whether the subject was training a dog, the thinning of plantations or, for example, budding a rose. His remarkable capacity for using original and most apt phrases was very amusing.

Few could have lived a more full life than "Tom" Hendrie, who will be remembered with affection by many people in many different walks of life.

**A SIGN IN NEWTOWN

CAN ANY READER EXPLAIN IT?

WE WERE STROLLING through Newtown (pop. 5,000) in Montgomeryshire, when suddenly the thought struck us - "Cash is running low; will the local hotel take a cheque?" The horizon cleared, however, for across the road we espied a sign, hanging from the side of what appeared to be an ordinary dwelling-house. "GRIFFITHS", it read. "Welsh Night Lodging Charity". "Who cares about hotel proprietors and cheques?", we thought. "Here is a bed if we want it".

On closer inspection we were not so sure, and we are still in the dark as to what the sign is all about, for lack of time precluded our making a personal enquiry of the householder. Anyway, the remainder of the sign read like this: "These premises have been erected and completed at the cost of and belong to the Charity in the Parish of Newtown in the County of Montgomery, founded by the will of John Griffiths, formerly of No. 75, Buttesland Street, Hoxton, in the County of Middlesex, gentleman, deceased. Dated the day of December, 1843".

As a possible safeguard against any future uncertainty as to where we may find a pillow on which to lay our head, and because we are in any case by nature curious, we should be glad to hear from any reader who knows the story that lies behind this sign. Newtown is probably much visited by our staff from Kerry Forest, so no doubt we can look forward to receiving a few lines.

**MORE QUAIN T PLACENAMES

OUR NOTE last month on quaint placenames has prompted readers to send us some more examples. At Radnor Forest, in the North Conservancy (writes District Officer J. HAMPSON) the following names (printed on the Ordnance Survey map) are intriguing: "Water-break-its-neck"; "Dry Wood"; "The Snatcher"; "Molccatcher's Wood"; and "Evenjobb Hill".

A series of woods near Radnor Forest, shown on the O.S. map, runs as follows from West to East: "Stocking Wood"; "Wern Gay"; "Hope's Wood"; "Hangman's Acre"; and "Hell Peak". It would be more appropriate, perhaps, if certain of these names ran from East to West!

At Gwydyr Forest, also in the North Wales Conservancy, there is the placename "Nant Betty Richards". We wonder if any reader can tell us the origin of this? Who was Betty Richards and why should a valley be named after her?

** TRANSFERS

THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS have been notified to Headquarters:
District Officers B. WALBANK from Gwydyr, N(W), to Welshpool, N(W); J. N. KENNEDY

from Santon Downham, E(E), to Princes Risborough; D. H. WALLACE from Caerphilly, S(W), to Neath, S(W).

Foresters A. MURRAY from Glenrigh, N(S), to Guisachan, N(S); W. MACINTOSH from Guisachan to Nevis, N(S); A. MACKAY from Ratagan, N(S), to Glen Affric, N(S); W. J. NICOLSON from Terrachilly, N(S), to Ratagan; V. MASSON from Research, Mabie, to Durris, E(S); A. J. DUNCAN from Monaughty, E(S), to Keillour, E(S); J. RIDDELL from Nevis, to Glenrigh; J. R. HENDERSON from Abinger, SE(E), to Gravetye, SE(E); J. K. REID from Keillour to Fonab, E(S). Foremen W. JOHNSTONE from Allean, E(S), to Drumtochty, E(S); R. A. F. KEMP from Dean to Education, Glentress; G. S. FRANCEY from Loch Katrine, W(S), to Ardgartan, W(S). Clerk of Works T. DALGLEISH from Glentress and Cardrona, S(S), to Glenhurich, N(S).

Newcomers are: Executive Officer K. W. WINTER to N(W). Clerk of Works W. G. PERKINS to S(W). Clerical Officers T. MARTINDALE to S(S); A. A. BUTT to D(W); Mrs. E. M. BOOCOK to NE(E); Miss J. McLENNAN to E(S).

**ON DUTY AT THE CORONATION

AMONG the military personnel on duty for the Coronation was ex-School Ganger K. F. BAKER, of the Dean. He carried the Queen's Colour of the 4/5 Batt. D.C.L.I.(T.A.) and was in the street-lining contingent of the Light Infantry group. His "stand" was near the Dorchester Hotel.

**A DIARY NOTE

HERE is a diary note likely to be of interest to certain of our Forest Officers. We have been asked by the Secretary of the Edinburgh University Forestry Society to draw attention to the fact that the Society's dinner will be held at the George Hotel, Edinburgh, on Friday, 27th November, at 7.45 p.m. The dinner will be preceded by the Presidential Address, to be given by LORD RADNOR at 6.30 p.m. Tickets are obtainable from the Secretary of the Society, 10, George Square, Edinburgh, price 17s. 6d.

**THE WEATHER FORECAST IN RHYME

OUR REFERENCE last month to weather prophecies in rhyme has brought us a note from District Officer K. A. H. CASSELS, of the North Scotland Conservancy; he doubts whether our version of the rhyme about the oak and the ash is correct, and offers the following alternative: "If the Oak before the Ash, then its all rain and splash; if the Ash before the Oak, then its all heat and smoke". The improbability of a summer being all heat and smoke, says Mr. Cassels, emphasises the improbability of the Ash budding before the Oak.

Well, there it is. You pays your money and takes your choice.

**PASSING OF A CLERICAL OFFICER

DEATH OF MR. M. O. DAVIES

WE REGRET to have to record the death of Mr. M. O. DAVIES, a Clerical Officer at Aberystwyth. Mr. Davies, who was 54, was a comparative newcomer to the Department, having transferred from the Assistance Board. He fought continuously against the handicap of ill health but passed away in Aberystwyth Hospital, and leaves a widow and daughter, to whom we offer our deepest sympathy.

Mr. Davies was chairman of the local branch of the C.S.C.A.

**MORE RESEARCH ROMANCE

RESEARCH FORESTER J. WALLER has married Miss D. M. KING, at Bristol. In congratulating them we are prompted to comment that, according to reports received by The Slasher, there appear to be more romances at Alice Holt than in any of our offices. We congratulate, too, District Officer B. D. HUGHES, of North Wales, and Mrs. Hughes, on the birth of a son.

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