

TRIBUTE TO OUR LATE CHAIRMAN

CAIRN UNVEILED AT KIELDER

A CONVOY of vehicles set out recently from Whickhope Lodge, in Kielder Forest, Northumberland, on a five mile drive through the plantations to Whickhope Nick, a vantage point some 1,200 feet above sea level, on the south side of the forest. There the unveiling took place of a cairn, erected as a memorial to our late Chairman, LORD ROBINSON.

It was a simple, but impressive ceremony. After rain and a boisterous wind, which are common in that part of the country, there was a break in the clouds and the sun shone as LORD RADNOR, our Chairman, drew aside from the cairn the Australian and Commission flags. Lord Radnor spoke of the late Chairman's career in forestry and paid a fitting tribute to his skill and fame as a great silviculturist and the very architect of forest policy in this country.

The Conservator for North East England, Mr. C. A. CONNELL, described the views to be seen from the site of the cairn, all of which had been well loved by Lord Robinson and are to be kept permanently visible.

A plaque on the cairn gives the name and title of Lord Robinson and also bears the following words: "His ashes are scattered in this forest, which owes its existence to his energy and vision". Those of us who served under Lord Robinson are especially well aware of how true is that statement. He surveyed the land on which Kielder Forest was to be formed; he watched the first trees being planted at Kielder, which is our biggest unit; he felled the first tree to be cut in this great forest which, within a quarter of a century, may produce 40,000 tons of timber a year; and, as recently as May of last year, opened the new Kielder Village, which is one of several forest communities which are to be established in the area.

The relatives attending the unveiling ceremony were Lady Robinson and the Hon. Mrs. T. Richey, a daughter of Lord Robinson. Others present included Mr. E. McCarthy, Deputy High Commissioner for Australia; Sir Richard Catterell, Professor J. Walton, Mr. Stanley C. Longhurst (Forestry Commissioners); Major Charles Mitchell (member of the National Forestry Committee for England); Mr. A. H. Gosling, our Director General; Sir Henry Baresford Peirse, Deputy Director General; Mr. O. J. Sangar, Director, England; Mr. A. H. H. Ross, Director, Scotland; Mr. A. P. Long, Director, Wales; Mr. H. A. Turner, Secretary; Mr. J. R. Thom, Mr. J. P. Mackie Whyte and Mr. G. J. L. Batters, Conservators; Sir William Taylor, formerly Director General, Forestry Commission; and Mr. William Johnstone, Principal of the Central School of Arts and Crafts, which was responsible for the design of the cairn.

THE QUEEN ELIZABETH FOREST

THE NAMING OF BURITON

IT IS NOT OFTEN that we have occasion to change the name of one of our forests and when this does happen it usually takes place quietly and without incident. But the changing the other day of the name of Buriton Forest, in the South East England Conservancy, was quite a different matter, for it attracted a great deal of attention and interest.

To mark the Coronation, Buriton has been re-named Queen Elizabeth Forest, the ceremony being performed by His Grace the DUKE OF WELLINGTON, Lieutenant of the County of Southampton, who in the presence of many distinguished visitors to the forest unveiled a name-plate and planted a tree. A further ceremony was performed by our Chairman, LORD RADNOR, who used a slasher to cut a tape and so open a forest thoroughfare to be known as The Queen's Drive. The programme also included the planting of a tree by Major C. M. FLOYD, Vice President of the Royal Forestry Society of England and Wales.

The guests were received by Lt. Col. SIR RICHARD COTTERELL, Chairman of the National Committee for England, and, after the ceremonies, they were transported over The Queen's Drive, which is about three miles long and affords some really impressive views of the forest.

Buriton Forest or, we should say, Queen Elizabeth Forest, is situated on the South Downs some two miles from Petersfield, in Hampshire, and covers about 1,700 acres, of which more than 1,400 acres are under plantations. It was started by the Commission in 1928 and is typical of a number of

Forests in South East England which may be said to have a high amenity value; it embraces mixed conifers and hardwoods, but the object is to develop it into a forest of pure beech. The Queen's Drive, which lies on the west side of the forest, covers a bridle road which emerges on to a ride of mown grass, this being one of a number of rides which are maintained not only to reduce the fire risk but to help retain the pleasant character of the downland. From The Queen's Drive there is a good view of some of the plantations of beech, with their larch and pine nurseries, and these species, with some old beech and whitebeam, combine to make a pleasing blend of colour. The Drive passes over the top of the down at one of the highest points in Hampshire, from which, on a clear day, the Isle of Wight, some 24 miles away, can be seen.

FIRE IN A FOREST VILLAGE

HOUSES DESTROYED AT DALAVICH

TWO HOUSES were destroyed in a disastrous fire which occurred at Dalavich, the new forest village on Loch Awe-side, in Argyllshire. The outbreak is believed to have occurred in a downstairs room of a house occupied by Mr. J. Symington, a forest worker, and his family. Mr. Symington found the kitchenette ablaze and raced upstairs to warn his wife, who was in a bedroom with a year-old child. The fire spread rapidly and it was impossible for the family to return to the lower floor, with the result that the child had to be dropped from the bedroom window into the arms of a neighbour and Mr. and Mrs. Symington had to leap to the ground. Mrs. Symington was taken to hospital, suffering from severe burns to the head and hands. The couple lost all their possessions.

The occupants of the house next door, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, were able to remove most of their furniture and household effects before their home was gutted. The fire was fought with a motor pump, brought across Loch Awe by boat under the local emergency forest fire plan, and with equipment from Inverinan Forest, pending the arrival of the Oban Fire Brigade.

THINNING SIX YEARS AFTER PLANTING

THIS SHOULD BE A RECORD!

IN THE SLASHER for January last Forester CLOSE, of Blengdale, Ennerdale Forest, Cumberland, claimed that a thinning of Japanese larch there, when only nine years old, must surely be a record. Now Mr. G. D. ROUSE, Chief Education Officer, answers the "challenge" with a reference to a Douglas fir plot at Clumbers Enclosure, in the New Forest. There, in 1940, some small clearings were made by removing mature Scots pine growing amid oak. These were planted up, in 1941, with sturdy young Douglas, two-plus-two transplants, spaced five feet apart. In this sheltered spot, on fairly fertile soil of Haddon Beds clay, very rapid growth resulted. Sample trees measured in 1946 had an average height of 20 feet, and their shoot growth that season exceed five feet!

In 1947, the first thinning was made, by removing alternate rows of trees; this yielded 215 hoppus feet to the acre, six years after planting. In 1948, a second thinning was made by removing alternate trees from remaining rows; this yielded 110 hoppus feet per acre, and in that season the average height growth was only three and a half feet. The plot is being managed on the Craib system of very heavy early thinnings, and in 1949 a few more trees were taken out to give a stocking of 520 trees per acre at eight years old.

The third general thinning was made in 1952, when the crop was 11 years old, and yielded 248 hoppus feet to the acre. This reduced the main crop to 310 trees per acre, with a standing volume of 422 feet. Total production to that date was 1,021 hoppus feet per acre. The trees that remain average 28 feet in height and four inches in breast-height quarter-girth, with a volume of 1.36 hoppus feet each; the tallest of them has averaged three feet a year in height growth, and is now 36 feet tall.

We think this record of three thinnings at eleven years old will take a lot of beating. District Officer H. L. EDLIN, who planted the trees, and District Officer R. H. KENDALL, who now has charge of them, kindly supplied the foregoing details.

HE STARTED DOVEY FOREST

RETIREMENT OF HEAD FORESTER ROBERT FRASER

HEAD FORESTER ROBERT FRASER, who started Dovey Forest, now regarded as one of the finest of our units in Wales, has retired, to the accompaniment of the good wishes of a host of friends. The occasion was marked by a large gathering in the local school at Aberangell, presided over by District Officer P. W. MORGAN, who reminded the company that when Mr. Fraser arrived at Dovey 27 years ago the land was bare of trees. It was a wonderful achievement that Mr. Fraser, in

his lifetime, had seen barren hills transformed into one of the most productive forests in the country.

Mr. F. C. BEST, Conservator, North Wales, said posterity would respect, and take pride in, the plantations formed by Mr. Fraser, who then received from the Conservator a cheque subscribed to by the Conservancy staff. Mr. JOHN EVANS, senior forest worker at Dovey, with 26 years in the forest, said the Forestry Commission came to Aberangell "as a godsend" during the years of unemployment and depression; he and many other workers had reason to thank Mr. Fraser for the tolerance and kindness he had always displayed. He then handed Mr. Fraser another cheque, this being from the forest staff and other friends in the district. Foreman DAVID EVANS, on behalf of the supervisory staff of the forest, handed Mr. Fraser a walking stick, made by Mr. E. H. FUGHE, and Mr. D. B. JONES, another senior forest worker, handed the gift of an oak biscuit barrel and fruit bowl to Mrs. Fraser.

Mr. Fraser, in reply, recalled incidents in the early history of the forest and expressed his deep appreciation of the co-operation he had always received from the forest staff. Mr. H. C. BELL, who has now taken charge at Dovey, also spoke, and the "Rhos" male voice party rendered some enjoyable items.

In such fashion Head Forester Fraser, a Scotsman, said farewell to his Welsh forest and friends. He retires after a career in forestry that commenced as far back as 1901.

*** BURIAL URN 3,000 YEARS OLD

FIND AT COED CLWYD

WALES is rich in ancient history and from time to time some of our forests contribute news of the finding of relics of the distant past. This is the case with Coed Clwyd Forest, sited on the Clwydian Range, in Denbighshire; in this forest members of the Flintshire Historical Society recently carried out excavations on the site of a cairn and, for their labours, were rewarded by the discovery of an earthenware burial urn nearly 3,000 years old. This urn, which has a diameter of eight inches and is $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, contained human bones, charcoal, some soil and a flint scraper. During the excavations a quantity of Roman coins was also found. Not long before a similar, but smaller, urn was found in the same locality; this, however, was badly broken and is in the Chester Museum, under repair.

*** THE BIG OAK TREE

THE CENSUS REPORT on hedgerow and park timber and woods under five acres mentions that "the largest tree measured in the course of the survey was an oak, growing in Kent; which had a volume of 457 cubic feet." Several readers have asked us if we know the location of this particular tree. It is to be seen in Chevening Park, near Kemsing, Sevenoaks.

The census was carried out on a sample basis, so it should be remembered that the volume of this oak may by no means be a record.

*** TRANSFERS

THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS have been notified to Headquarters:

Divisional Officer H. V. S. DIER from Glasgow to Aberdeen. District Officer A. RIX from Rothbury, NE(E), to Ripon, NE(E). Foresters J. HAMILTON from Achaglachgach, W(S), to Glenbranter, W(S); K. H. C. TRODD from Arundel, SE(E), to Gravetye, SE(E); E. J. D. WILKINSON from Information Section to Research, Alice Holt Lodge; H. O. ARMSTRONG from Mabic, S(S), to Glentworth, S(S). Foremen A. MAXWELL from Ae, S(S), to Mabic; R. McGEORGE from Research, Mabic, to Greskine, S(S).

Executive Officer B. A. HAMILTON from Chester to Lightmoor Depot.

Newcomers are Clerical Officers Miss J. E. RUTLEDGE and K. J. PRATT to E(E); F. L. DRUIETT to H.Q.; Miss A. P. WYATT to SW(E).

On the occasion of his transfer Mr. DIER was presented with a table lighter and cigarettes by colleagues and friends in the West Conservancy, Scotland, in which he has had 16 years' service.

We recently reported that District Officer P. C. GOUGH had been transferred from the Forester Training School at Lynford Hall to Bannore School. This was, of course, only a temporary move.

*** TREE GROWS FROM A WALL

AT GOYTRE FOREST, in the South Wales Conservancy, there is a Scots pine growing from a garden wall. This wall, which is built with old lime mortar, is about five

and a half feet thick, and the tree grows from an inch gap between the stones. It is three feet high and is believed to be about 60 years old and has a fairly good shape, with good needles. The root cannot be seen.

An even more unusual occurrence is reported by Forester R. P. WOOLLARD, of Stanton, in East England. "We have a plant of an unknown species", he says, "growing out of the sitting room wall from about two feet from the floor. It is now about three feet high, and still growing. We are waiting for it to flower before cutting it down. Incidentally, the wall was recently papered, but the plant pushed through three layers and split the paper several inches."

Other news from East England is of a poplar, felled at Cranwich, which was thought to have been planted in 1805. A danger to users of the nearby highway, it was appropriately enough brought to the ground near Trafalgar Day; the main log was found to contain 587 cubic feet of timber. A similar tree in the same locality contained a beehive and a substantial amount of honey.

THE COMMISSION TIE

FROM TIME TO TIME we have given details of the latest position regarding the supply of the Forestry Commission tie. This is obtainable from Messrs. C. H. Munday, Ltd., of 7, Irving Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.2 and is still made up in three materials—rayon rope (smooth weave rayon) at 7s. 6d.; rayon non-crease, 9s. 6d.; all silk rope, 15s. Postage on all ties is 3d.

On ordering, you may be told by the firm that they are temporarily out of stock of the particular tie you require; apparently there is a delay in securing stocks of striped ties, but Messrs. Munday will do their best to meet all orders with a minimum delay.

TENNIS TOURNAMENT

THE TENNIS TOURNAMENT arranged by the Headquarters Sports and Social Club took place recently at the Civil Service Sports Ground, Chiswick. Winners were: Ladies' singles, Miss E. TEBBITT; men's singles, Mr. P. BROOK; ladies' doubles, Miss E. LANDIMORE and Miss TEBBITT; men's doubles, Mr. E. BROWN and Mr. R. BEAGLEY.

Mixed doubles (drawn partners), Miss J. PRIEST and Mr. Beagley; mixed doubles (partners selected), Miss E. INNES and Mr. E. BROWN. Prizes were distributed by Mrs. BEAGLEY.

RETIRED TO FORESTER B. V. JAMES

ANOTHER RETIREMENT is that of Forester B. V. JAMES, who has been in charge of Pembrey Forest, South Wales, since 1947. Mr. James was employed in State forestry for 46 years, having joined the Office of Woods in 1907; most of his service was in the Forest of Dean. To mark the retirement, colleagues from South Wales and The Dean presented Forester James with a clock, which was handed to him by Mr. W. D. RUSSELL, Conservator, South Wales.

PERSONAL

THE WEDDING took place at Neath recently of District Officer W. C. WILKINS, South Wales Conservancy, and Miss ANGELA DREN. The Conservancy staff presented the couple with a wreath and Foresters in the Conservancy made a presentation of a canteen of cutlery. A gift of kitchen utensils was made by staff at Brochfa Forest and Treglog Depot, and an additional presentation of a coffee set was made by workmen at Pembrey Forest.

The wedding has also taken place of Mr. K. HUGHES, Clerical Officer at Cardiff, and Miss FLORICE LEMPRIERE. Colleagues presented them with a tea service. Another recent marriage was that of Miss D. SMITH, Clerical Officer at York, and Mr. R. SIMPSON.

Congratulations are due to District Officer E. J. M. DAVIES, of Aberystwyth, and Mrs. Davies, on the birth of a son; to District Officer J. P. NEWTON, of South West England, and Mrs. Newton, also on the arrival of a son; and to ex-School Ganger G. DAVIES, of Pembrey Forest, South Wales, and Mrs. Davies, on the birth of a daughter (Susan).

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