

RETIREMENT OF MR. A. P. LONG
PRESENTATIONS IN LONDON AND
WALES

"WE ARE INDEED sorry to be losing him". Thus LORD RADNOR, our Chairman, in paying tribute the other day to Mr. A. P. LONG, who has retired after serving the Department since its inception and who has been Director of Forestry for Wales since 1946.

A more detailed reference to Mr. Long's career was made in an earlier issue of The Slasher.

Lord Radnor was making a presentation of a cheque to Mr. Long on behalf of many wellwishers, before a company of colleagues at Headquarters. Mr. Long, said the Chairman, had a record in forestry which was probably longer than that of anyone in the Commission, having taken his diploma in 1912 and, incidentally, his diploma in agriculture a year earlier. Lord Radnor made special reference to Mr. Long's work in Wales. "He made no secret of the fact that he did not want to go there," said the Chairman, "but we have cause to be grateful that he did become the Director for that country. He made a tremendous success of the job."

It was pleasing to know that Mr. Long was going to live near at hand in Buckinghamshire and intended to maintain an association with forestry.

Mr. Long, in voicing his thanks, said it was a long time ago that he joined the Commission and he had been through many varied times, grave and gay. "I can say", he added, "that no man could have had more loyalty, help and cheerfulness than I have had from my colleagues of all grades, both men and women. It is very gratifying to know that I have been privileged to make so many friends."

In reminiscing, Mr. Long provided his audience with some amusing anecdotes, one of which referred to the "disaster" that befell a former Assistant Commissioner who, being helped across a stream near Beddeglert, fell into the water and had to beat a hasty retreat to a nearby cottage in order to dry out his sodden clothes. "Good luck to the good ship 'Forestry' ", said Mr. Long in conclusion, "and to all who sail in her."

Further presentations to Mr. Long took place at Aberystwyth, and in the Conservancies. At the Directorate Headquarters he received a shooting stick from Miss V. B. PRYSE, the youngest member of the staff, and Mr. E. R. LEWIS, Chief Clerk, said the gift was a token of the great esteem and regard in which Mr. Long was held by all. A salad bowl was presented to Mrs. Long.

At Cardiff, Mr. and Mrs. Long were presented with a stainless steel handfork and trowel, the gift being handed over on behalf of the Conservancy by Mr. J. T. L. FITZHERBERT. These implements, it is understood, are intended as companion tools to the planting spade presented recently to Mr. Long by the North Conservancy staff. The spade, incidentally, was put to good use at Haford Forest by Mr. Long when he and Mrs. Long and others recently planted beech trees there. It was pointed out by the Conservator for North Wales, Mr. F. C. BEST, that the resultant small grove was on the site of the garden of the famous Johnes Estate, which in the 18th century was the scene of a very large forestry enterprise.

Clearly, at the conclusion of a long and distinguished career, Mr. Long carries with him the kindly thoughts of a host of friends.

~~THE~~ THE ANNUAL REPORT

MORE PLANTING THAN EVER BEFORE

THIS RENEWS an invitation extended last year - if you would like a copy of a summary of the Commissioners' Annual Report, in this instance for the Forcst Year 1953, please make an early application to the Information Section at Headquarters. There is a limited number available. Foresters, by the way, will receive a copy as a matter of course, so there is no need for anyone of that grade to apply.

The Report mentioned was published this month and, once again, records some interesting and gratifying progress. The area planted, for example, was 67,610 acres, a figure which exceeded that of any previous year in the history of the Department, and was almost 6,000 acres more than in F.Y.52. More than 104 million trees were used to form the new plantations, and 14 million in replacing failures in recently planted areas. But, and it is acceptable that there should be a "but", in order to carry out the expanding programme of planting within the funds

available it was necessary to postpone some of the tasks that should go hand in hand with planting and thinning. For instance, fewer houses were completed than in the previous year and the placing of contracts for new houses was again restricted.

The Commissioners again sound a warning note where the acquisition of land is concerned. The net additions in the past two years, states the Report, were substantially less than the areas planted; in F.Y.52 they were less by 8,000 acres and in the year under review by 14,000 acres. "Clearly," it is recorded, "unless this trend is reversed the Commissioners' plans for a steady increase in the planting programme will not succeed."

There is encouraging news of private forestry in the Report - some 226,000 acres on a total of 479 estates had been dedicated by the end of the year and plans of operations covering a further 140,000 acres had been approved. It is estimated that private planting in the year amounted to about 18,000 acres, an increase of 3,000 acres compared with the previous year. As felling licenses with an obligation to replant were issued during the year in respect of almost 24,000 acres, it is a fair assumption (says the Report) that within the next few years the annual rate of private planting may have risen above the rate of 25,000 acres given as the objective for the latter part of the first post-war decade.

~~THE~~ THE PRAYER OF THE TREE

SOME INFORMATION REQUIRED

different version).

SOME LONG WHILE ago we reproduced a poem which is best described as being the tree's prayer to the wayfarer. It goes like this (we make no apology for printing it a second time, albeit in a slightly

You who pass by and would raise your hand against me,
hearken ere you harm me,

I am the heat of your hearth on the cold winter night,
the friendly shade screening you from summer sun,
And my fruits are refreshing draughts quenching your
thirst as you journey on.

I am the beam that holds your house, the board of your
table, the bed on which you lie, the timber that
builds your boat.

I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your homestead,
the wood of your cradle, the shell of your coffin.

I am the gift of God and the friend of man.

You who pass by, listen to my prayer, HARM ME NOT.

When we used this poem before we said we did not know the name of the author. We still don't know it and have a special reason for asking if any reader can enlighten us, for this year's travelling agricultural show exhibit is based on this poem and there are numerous requests for copies. In meeting these we would like, if at all possible, to be able to tell those interested a little about the origin of the verse. Can anyone help?

~~MAY~~ MAY DAY AT KIELDER

THE FIRST of last month was a great day for the inhabitants (and especially the children) of Kielder forest village, in remote Northumberland, which takes its name from our biggest unit. The occasion was the staging of the first May Day celebrations to be held in the community and the highlight, of course, was the crowing of Miss ANNE RIDDELL as the May Queen. The programme was organised by the Kielder Archers Youth Club and, in addition to the crowning ceremony, included maypole and country dancing and sports and, by way of variety, the making of a rope bridge by the 1st Kielder Scout Troop.

~~THE~~ THE KEEPING OF TROPICAL FISH

HINTS FOR THE BEGINNER

CONSIDERABLE INTEREST appears to have been aroused by our reference last month to the keeping of tropical fish. An enthusiast at Headquarters, Mr. L. FAGG, who is in charge of the Registry, has offered to provide a few notes in serial form to aid the beginner. His remarks are intentionally of a very elementary nature, but no doubt this will be appreciated by those of us who are as yet on the threshold of the mysteries of equipping and maintaining a miniature aquarium.

Here, then, is our correspondent's advice:

As most people are aware, the majority of tropical fish (as other fish) require a constant supply of oxygen; they extract the oxygen from the water as it passes through their gills, and exhale carbonic acid gas. Conversely, submerged water plants utilise carbonic acid gas to build up their tissues and maintain growth, and give off oxygen in exchange. It will be realised, therefore, that although the chief source of oxygen in water is derived from the contacting air, an important preliminary job is the "setting up" of the tank, or the introduction of the plants before the stocking with fish takes place. It must be pointed out that submerged plants will not do their job properly unless they have sufficient light to stimulate their growth, and thought should be given to the setting of the tank; if it cannot be positioned near a window, then it should be fitted with artificial lighting and be illuminated for several hours a day.

The beginner might well commence with a tank 24 ins. x 12 ins. x 12 ins., which will house up to 40 small fish. Where feeding is concerned we cannot do better than quote an American authority - William T. Innes - who says that prepared food should be supplied at one time in such quantity that all is consumed within five minutes.

Other points to remember as prerequisites to maintaining healthy and virile stock is that dead and decaying vegetation should be removed from the tank as soon as noticed, and that some of the sediment from the bottom of the tank should be syphoned off at intervals; fresh water, warmed to the same temperature as the tank (about 75 degrees) should then be added.

Next month I propose to recommend species of plants and methods of establishing them in the tank; and the provision of heating equipment.

~~THE~~ FOREST FIRE PRECAUTIONS

MEMBERS of the public who visit or travel near our plantations in periods of high fire risk don't know how fortunate they are. If they visited forest areas in Canada they would have to observe stringent conditions which are likely to be even more severe in the not too distant future. A cutting from the "Vancouver Province" tells the story: "New legislation adopted by the Legislative Assembly bans smoking while travelling in cars as well as on foot or on horseback on Crown lands, leased timber limits or private lands of 2,000 acres or more. Anyone caught smoking while travelling is liable to lose his forest travel permit for a year. A forest worker guilty of a similar infraction loses his job for a year." The legislation must now go before the Legislative Council and receive Royal Assent before becoming law.

~~THE~~ 100 YEARS OF SCOTTISH FORESTRY

THE ROYAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES

MORE THAN 150 foresters (including our correspondent) gathered at Pitlochry last month for the Centenary Excursion of the Royal Scottish Forestry Society. So big was the party that each day it was split into two groups, to visit separate forests or estate woodlands.

On the first day the hardier spirits awoke at 5 a.m., boarded buses and did not stop for breakfast until 7.15, by which time they had reached the shores of beautiful Loch Rannoch. A train journey to Corroon on the West Highland Railway followed, and a memorable day was spent in the famous Loch Ossian plantations. SIR JOHN STIRLING MAXWELL, one of the founder-members of the Forestry Commission, and its Chairman from 1930 to 1932, was host, and came out to meet the party. Meanwhile the later risers had gone to the Black Wood of Rannoch, a fragment of the ancient Caledonian pine forest, and then to Drummond Hill, under the leadership of District Officers R. R. D'O. P. JACKSON, ATHOLE WHAYMAN, and ROBERT SHAW.

On the following day the long-distance party made the trip over the Pass of Drumochter to Inshriach Forest in the North Conservancy, where they were welcomed by Conservator JAMES FRASER and District Officer A. M. FRASER, and shown examples of forest ploughing, stream training, and plantations of Scots pine. Later they visited the Queen's Forest in the Glen More National Forest Park, where M. V. EDWARDS of the Research Branch discussed the difficulties of natural regeneration in old pine woods. The second party visited the Blair Atholl estate woodlands, famous for their hybrid larch.

On the third day one party went to Glamis Castle, where the Earl of Strathmore and his staff showed them over the woodlands, which have, unfortunately, suffered sadly from the disastrous windblow of January 1953. Then on to Rossie Priory, near Dundee, where the Master of Kinnaird led the party through

flourishing natural regeneration of ash and sycamore. The second party visited Glendelvine and Murthly Estates, both in the Tay valley near Dunkeld, and then went on to Ledmore Nursery, where District Officer H. V. S. DIER and Forester A. ROSE displayed modern methods of mechanising nursery work.

On the fourth day all the excursionists joined with other members of the Society in visits to Dunkeld Estate and Craig Vinean Forest, followed by a meeting in the open air beside Dunkeld House Hotel. There, in perfect weather, and an ideal setting amid the wooded hills, old friendships were renewed, while the pipe band of the Second Battalion of the Black Watch lent colour and music to the scene.

Among those attending the excursion were Deputy Director General SIR HENRY BERESFORD-PEIRSE, the Director for Scotland, Mr. A.H.H. ROSS, five Scottish Conservators, and a large number of other technical officers and foresters. Among the retired members of our staff who were present there may be mentioned Messrs. A. D. HOPKINSON and FRANK SCOTT.

TRANSFERS

THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS have been notified to Headquarters:

Divisional Officer J. B. STOCKS from Bristol to D(E). District Officers D. F. C. FORBES from Palmure, S(S), to Kilgrammie, S(S); A. J. GRAYSON from Bellingham, NE(E), to Rothbury, NE(E); T. C. MITCHELL from Widehaugh, NE(E), to Carlisle, NW(E). Foresters N. E. MCINTYRE from Wyre, SW(E), to Bentley, SE(E); D. L. SHAW from Aberhirnant, N(W), to Coed-y-Brenin, N(W); A. POWELL from Gwydyr, N(W), to Brechfa, S(W); O. D. HOLLINGTON from Coed-y-Brenin to Crychan, S(W). Foremen T. A. CARTER from Kerry, N(W), to Dovey, N(W); C. R. AMBLER from Aberhirnant to Coed-y-Brenin; F. W. LANE from Carno, N(W), to Bechan, N(W).

Executive Officers Miss M. A. E. FROST from Headquarters to Education; Miss J. G. ROWE from Aberdeen to D(S). Clerical Officer D. MACPHAIL from Blair Atholl to Glasgow.

Newcomers are: District Officer I. W. VARTY to S(S). Clerk of Works H. L. D. MILLER to S(W). Assistant Engineer J. MARTIN to S(W). Executive Officers D. O. J. SALAMAN and Mrs. M. D. GODFREY to Headquarters. Clerical Officers H. T. WHEELER to New Forest; I. E. WALKER to D(S); Mrs. L. E. PEARSON to NE(E); N. HARRISON to Headquarters. Draughtswoman Miss N. P. L. WHITEHOUSE to NW(E).

R. & E. DIRECTORATE IN THE FOREST

MEMBERS of the staff of Director, Research and Education, had an instructional (and enjoyable) visit to a sawmill and forest the other day.

Travelling by coach, and accompanied by Mr. JAMES MACDONALD, the Director, the party went first to the Epsom mill of Mr. STANLEY LONGHURST, one of the Forestry Commissioners, and then on to Bedgebury Forest, in the Weald of Kent. There the famous Pinetum and a number of forest plots were visited. Forester A. W. WESTALL helped conduct the party.

THE BOX HILL MEMORIAL

A LITTLE more information about the odd memorial on the top of Box Hill, Surrey, to which we referred last month, is available from the Chief Librarian of Guildford, who writes: "The memorial is to Major Peter Labelliere, an ex-officer of Marines. According to his own wish he was buried on the north-west brow of the hill, with his head downwards, since in his opinion the world was turned 'topsy-turvy' and he hoped thus to be 'right at last'. There is a reference also that his mind had become unsettled in consequence of an 'unrequited attachment'.

"It is not known whether the monument does mark the site of the actual grave, and it is even said the body was removed a few years after the burial and interred elsewhere...."

PERSONAL

WE RECORD with regret the death of Mr. W. FORGAN, Head Forester at Denny Lodge, in the New Forest, until his retirement in 1939. Congratulations to Miss SHEILA GOUGH, cartographical draughtswoman in the Cardiff office, on her marriage to Mr. PAUL BJORKLUND. And to the following: Forester W. G. WILLIAMS, Taliesin Forest, North Wales, and Mrs. Williams, on the birth of a daughter; Mr. S. A. SIMMONDS, Land Agent, New Forest, and Mrs. Simmonds, also on the arrival of a daughter; Clerical Officer K. HUGHES, Cardiff office, and Mrs. Hughes (a daughter); and Mr. J. G. BARNES, Clerical Officer, New Forest, and Mrs. Barnes (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