

## DAY EXCURSIONS FOR 1953

**T**HE Society's practice of holding a number of day-excursions to places of forestry interest was continued during 1953. All outings were well attended and many lively and interesting discussions arose.

The first outings were on Sunday, 12th April when two separate excursions were held, one to Ballyward property of Blessington forest, for members from Dublin and the midlands, and the other to Kilworth forest for our members in the south. Both excursions were by kind permission of the Minister for Lands.

The plantations at Ballyward are mostly well advanced and the main theme of this excursion was thinning, which was very fully discussed from all aspects during the day.

At the Kilworth excursion interest centred mainly round the *Pinus contorta* plots, which are a feature of this centre, with very lively and interesting discussions on this little known species as well as on general forest topics.

On Sunday, 13th September a very interesting excursion was held to Pakenham Hall Estate by kind permission of Lord Longford. The woodlands on this estate are being run on strict commercial lines and the devastated woodland areas are gradually being rehabilitated. All forest work on this estate is being conducted under contract by Irish Forest Products Ltd. We were fortunate to have the directors of this firm and their operational-manager, as well as the forest-advisor to the estate present to answer all questions—and they were many—put by our members. Detailed costings and records of all operations are kept by the firm and were made available to us. The most important and significant fact emerging was that the remnants of the old stands on the devastated areas were being made to pay for the rehabilitation of these areas, which is a tribute both to the estates forest-advisor Mr. T. Clear and to the contracting firm, Irish Forest Products Ltd.

An interesting experiment by this firm in the control of pine weevil by insecticides was explained at length and with detailed costings, but unfortunately it was yet too early to judge the results, although the indications were that some measure of success was being achieved.

In the evening the members were entertained to tea as guests of Irish Forest Products Ltd. and were shown some of the heavy equipment used by this firm in their operations. To private woodland owners this was probably one of the most interesting and significant of our day excursions to date.

On Sunday, 4th October we travelled north for our excursion to Ravensdale property of Dundalk forest. This, our last excursion of the year was designed to cover all aspects of forestry from the nursery to the mature crop and to provide a general summing up of our year's activities.