

## Fifteenth Annual General Meeting

The fifteenth Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin, on Saturday, 16th March, 1957, up to 80 persons being present.

The meeting was opened by the President, Mr. O. V. Mooney. The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, having appeared in "Irish Forestry," were taken as read and were confirmed and signed.

The Secretary then read the Council's Report for 1956.

### Council's Report for 1956

The new Council met on January 9th, 1956 in Mills' Hall, Merrion Row. There were 13 members present. Mr. O. V. Mooney, the new President, welcomed the new members of the Council and spoke in praise of the work of the outgoing President. The Council passed with acclamation a vote of thanks to Mr. McEvoy for his services to the Society as President during the previous two years.

The Council made arrangements to hold its meetings at the offices of Mr. D. M. Craig and made provision for using Mr. Craig's secretarial services to a greater extent so as to relieve the Secretary of the routine work of the Society which has tended to grow with the years.

The Council appointed the following committees :—the *Editorial* to look after the affairs of the Journal, the *Finance Committee* to deal with question of expenditure, etc., the *Excursion Committee* to organise the excursion programme planned for the year.

The Council appointed a Committee to arrange for the reprinting of the Constitution in the Journal. The meeting made final arrangements for the Annual General Meeting, including speakers, venue and date. The Council then considered the possibility of a trip to Germany. A lengthy discussion followed and the meeting was adjourned to Monday, 23rd January. At the resumed meeting fresh particulars of costs of travel to, and on, the Continent were considered and it was decided to go ahead with preparations for a tour to South Germany in May. The Excursion Committee were asked to draft a circular to members inviting enrolments by 14th February. The Secretary was asked to write to the Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten asking their co-operation.

A programme of Day-Excursions was arranged and venues selected included Coolattin, Lough Eske, Emo, Kilworth, Kinnitty and Clondalkin Paper Mills.

The Council met again on Tuesday, 20th March at 85 Harcourt Street at 7.15 p.m. The Council considered the financial statement and the Council's report which were to be read at the Annual General Meeting. Arrangements were made for the reception of Mr. McNeill and Mr. Burgess.

A progress report on the German Excursion was presented by Mr. S. Campbell and included estimates supplied by travel agencies. Other matters dealt with included Editorial business, Day Excursions and election to membership.

A meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday, 25th September. Eleven members were present. A report on the Excursion to Germany was presented by Mr. S. Campbell. The Council thanked Mr. Campbell and his Committee for the success of the excursion. Particulars of gifts sent to the German officials on behalf of the participants in the Excursion were supplied. The Winter Programme was considered and reports furnished by the various committees.

The Council decided to ask Herr Oedekoven to be principal speaker at the Annual General Meeting 1957.

A final meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, December 4th, made arrangements for voting for the New Council and for the date and venue of the Annual General Meeting.

#### *Membership.*

As the Statement of Accounts reveals, paid up members on the 31st December, 1956 number 36 Grade I, 52 Grade II and 86 Associate.

#### *Journal.*

Two issues of the Journal appeared during the period under review. The standard was regarded as satisfactory. Copies have been sent, on order, to Germany, Norway, Poland, Canada, U.S.S.R., China, and several to U.S.A.

#### *Excursions.*

The programme of excursions during 1956 has been recorded in "Irish Forestry" Vol. XIII, No. 1 and 2, and members will appreciate from the reports that it was an outstanding year in the history of the Society.

Mr. D. McGlynn in proposing the adoption of the Report and Financial Statement (which latter appears elsewhere in this issue) referred to the balance in the bank of £488 11s. 0d. and suggested that the Society should find some way of using this money to better advantage. He suggested three possibilities for consideration by the Council:—

- (1) That the Society should acquire land and establish a forest that would be a model for woodland owners.
- (2) That in view of the extensive planting in this country of exotic species of which comparatively little is known the Society should, within the limits of its resources, finance research into the behaviour of these trees under Irish conditions.
- (3) That the Society should invest in prize bonds.

The proposal for the adoption of the Council Report and Financial Statement was seconded by Mr. P. Ryan and carried unanimously.

At that stage the President referred to the sudden death a few weeks previously of Mr. F. G. Burgess, Deputy Chief Technical Officer, Forestry Section, Ministry of Agriculture, Northern Ireland, who was a valuable member of our Society and one of the principal speakers at the Annual General Meeting of 1956. Members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. Burgess.