

OBITUARY

PATRICK BARRY, 1887—1948

The death on July 24, 1948, of Patrick Barry came as a shock to his colleagues in the Forestry Service. Although he had been ailing since Easter, few realised that his illness might prove fatal and the news of his passing was a heavy blow to his numerous friends and a grave loss to Irish Forestry.

He was the first to take the Forestry Course at Avondale which he entered in 1908. In 1913 he became foreman in the embryo Forest Service. The first World War interrupted his forestry career but by 1920 he had reached the rank of Grade I Forester and was appointed Junior Inspector in 1934. When the District Officer posts were established in 1937 he was an obvious choice and was placed in charge of the Portlaoighise District. When the expansion of the Service necessitated a strengthening of headquarters technical staff his ability and experience again told and he was transferred to Dublin in 1939. He was in charge of Nurseries and Supplies and also acted as Divisional Inspector before his appointment to the Chief Inspectorship, which came in January, 1947.

During his term as Forester he had charge of the important centres of Mountrath, Glen of Imaal, Dundrum and Emo. In all these outstanding crops are a living tribute to his knowledge and efficiency in the work of afforestation. In nursery technique, too, he led the way. His practical approach to all problems, and the standard of careful, economical work and attention to detail which he established impressed all and left their mark on the many foresters who trained under him at Emo.

In the various posts assigned to him he came to have an unequalled knowledge of forestry personnel and, even in later years when his work confined him to the office, he kept in touch with both the official and private lives of almost every member of the staff. He had that rare capacity for maintaining strict discipline and yet retaining the warmest regard and friendship of his subordinates. Even when he castigated most severely one felt that he was actuated solely by zeal and an underlying feeling of sincere friendship. It is hardly surprising that those trained by him confidently turned to him in after years for advice and guidance.

A widely-read man with a great fund of general knowledge, he was noted for his vigorous and colourful utterances on a wide range of subjects. He had a deep knowledge of human nature and a reputation for his shrewd

assessment of character. The memory of this strong personality with the kindly heart will remain green for many a year.