

## JOSEPH FARRELLY, 1890—1948

We regret to record the death on 6th November, 1948, of Joseph Farrelly, State Forester at Virginia Forest.

He took his training in forestry at Dundrum from 1911 to 1912 and at Avondale up to 1914. Having had previous experience in private nurseries, his skill in propagating rare species was availed of even at this stage. On completion of his training he took an appointment on the Humewood estate in West Wicklow managing the woodland and gardens. In 1916 he was gardener in the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, but left to start a nursery of his own. In 1919 he returned to the State service as Forest Foreman, working at Glendalough and Avondale Forests. He was later engaged by Kildare County Council on its Forestry Scheme and laid down the large Bracknagh plantation near Athy. From 1922 to 1924 he served in the newly-formed Free State Army but soon returned to the outdoor life as gardener in Watson's Nurseries, Killiney. In 1927 he emigrated to U.S.A. where he became foreman in a 600 acre nursery in New Jersey and later worked with the Pacific Lumber Company in California. An unfortunate street accident in America resulted in a broken leg which caused permanent lameness. Undaunted by this mishap we find him in 1935 returning to the Irish Forestry Service, serving as Forester at Ballymahon, Athlone and finally, Virginia, where he died "in harness."

He was an active member of the Volunteers from their inception and took part in their organisation in County Wicklow, particularly in the Rathdrum district. He was in close touch with the leaders in Dublin.

Owing to a retiring disposition and his late re-entry into the Service he was not widely known and his varied career will come as a surprise to many of his colleagues. His love of country and of the forest were outstanding, and in later years he never allowed his physical disability to interfere with his duties. In fact he spent most of his spare time in the woods and earned a reputation in the skilled handling of hardwood plantations.

A widower, he leaves four young children unprovided for as his formal State Service was insufficient to qualify for pension or gratuity.