

F.A.O. MISSION TO AUSTRIA

In view of the recent F.A.O. Mission to Ireland by Mr. D. Roy Cameron, the following account from *Unosylva* of a somewhat similar mission to Austria may interest readers.

“ A co-ordinated programme for the development of Austria's most important economic asset—its forests—is suggested in a report of the F.A.O. Forestry Mission to Austria. The mission was carried out by Dr. Egon Glesinger and Mr. D. Roy Cameron of F.A.O. and the report was delivered to the Austrian Government in April.

“ An investment programme for forestry projects to be undertaken between now and 1952 at a cost of 1,700 million Austrian schillings (about 80 million United States dollars) is recommended. Suggested expenditures would cover forest management and development; modernization of primary forest industries such as the manufacture of pulp; and improvement of secondary industries such as paper-making, furniture manufacture, and box-making.

“ In addition to the investment programme, the mission formulated major recommendations for the reorganization of forestry administration and services.

“ The recommended investment programme, if carried out in full, could be expected to increase annual production value by 30 per cent. in 1952. This would allow for a 60 per cent. increase in exports of forest products, thus adding about 600 million schillings a year to the country's receipts from foreign trade. Since Austria's forests contribute regularly one-third of the country's export value, this would go a long way towards closing the existing gap in her balance of payments.

“ In accepting the report, Chancellor Figl expressed gratitude to F.A.O., and promised immediate implementation.”