

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in Jury's Hotel on the 16th March, 1949, at 7.45 p.m. Mr. O'Beirne, the President, was in the Chair. Over 40 members were present. At the suggestion of the President, the minutes of the previous meeting, which appeared in the Journal, were taken as read and duly signed.

The Secretary then read the Council's report for year ending 31st December, 1948.

Council Report for 1948

The Council met on the 16th March, 1948, in Dublin and appointed sub-committees to deal with arrangements for excursions and the publication of the Journal.

At a meeting held in Sligo on Tuesday, 1st June, the Council decided to organise an excursion to North Wales in May, 1949.

A further meeting of the Council was held on November 15th.

The average attendance at meetings of the Council was eight.

MEMBERSHIP

During the year 15 Associate, 3 Grade I and 1 Grade II members were enrolled. There are now 88 Associate, 33 (29) Grade I and 44 (66) Grade II technical members. The Secretary has, at recent council meetings, drawn attention to the shrinking support forthcoming from technical members. This is a deplorable state of affairs. Our Society, through its Journal and its meetings, is playing a very powerful role in keeping the case for forestry before the people. The Society can claim to have brought forestry before the country in a way that could not otherwise have been achieved and, as a result of our activities, forestry is becoming a very live issue here. Foresters stand to benefit by any increased support we can win for forestry. Further, the country is looking to us for a lead, for an act of faith in the future of forestry. If the Society loses the active support of foresters it cannot expect the outsider to maintain enthusiasm. We must congratulate ourselves on our growing associate membership. The attendance of associates at meetings and the unmistakable keenness shown is a tribute to our work. We appeal to those people and to foresters as well to act as recruiting agents for the Society. In every district in Ireland there are people ready and anxious to join in this great national work. The Council cannot contact those prospective members nor can the finances of the Society run to advertising in a big way. It must be recorded, however, that there is a noticeable increase in the re-enrolment of lapsed members. This is a very encouraging sign. The Council desires members to inform lapsed colleagues that the Secretary is empowered to re-enrol lapsed members on receipt of the current year's subscription.

FINANCE

The abstract of Accounts for 1947 has been sent out to all members. Our income from all sources amounted to £161.19.0.

We are again indebted to Mrs. A. H. Henry for a further donation of £25 to forward the work of the Society. This splendid gesture might well be copied by some of our leading statesmen or industrialists. Article III of our Constitution says hopefully . . . "The Society . . . shall have power to accept from members and others donations either in money or otherwise to its funds and property, and bursaries and prizes to be awarded in furtherance of its object."

The Council wishes to pay tribute to the work of our Honorary Auditor, D. M. Craig, for his capable assistance and advice on matters relating to the finances of the Society.

JOURNAL

One issue of the Journal appeared during the period under review. The standard of the Journal is being maintained; in fact, we claim it has greatly improved and is sought after by a growing number of forest services and colleges in every part of the world. The F.A.O. Organisation, when requesting to be put on the mailing list, stated that our Journal was the only Irish publication keeping this important subject before the eyes of the world. Our Journal is now read in Britain, Canada, the U.S.A., Sweden, South Africa, New Zealand and Holland. The articles by our members are reviewed—often at length—in the journals of other Forestry Societies; in Forestry Abstracts put out by the Imperial Forestry Institute, and by the F.A.O. organs.

The cost of printing a small issue of 500 copies is a very heavy tax on our limited resources. The Business Editor has been active in securing advertisements and has had very considerable success. We trust our members will give support to those advertisers who have supported us. Again we would like our members to try to increase our sales of Journals. The county libraries have so far ignored our publication, while periodicals of a much poorer kind clutter up the reading rooms. If our members would approach the public authorities concerned and ask to have our Journal available it would be a great day's work for forestry. The County Committees of Agriculture, the Vocational schools, the public schools, should help. If our circulation increased to 1000 copies it might be possible to provide a quarterly issue and thereby improve our service to foresters and forestry alike.

EXCURSIONS

The Report of the Annual Excursion to Sligo on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd June appears in Vol. V, *Irish Forestry*.

A further successful excursion was held in Camolin Forest in October.

To judge by the letters from members, it is apparent that these excursions rank among the most popular functions of the Society. Every member is privileged to introduce two guests to our excursions and meetings, and the Council believes that there is no better way

of making a life member than by his attendance at one of our excursions.

The Society is deeply indebted to the Minister for Lands and the officials of the Forestry Division for the facilities and unflinching courtesies enjoyed by our members attending the excursions.

LIBRARY SCHEME

The demand for forestry books has been very slack in recent times and we look forward to an improvement in this direction. The Secretary will send a list of suitable books to members wishing to avail of this service. The Secretary is also prepared to help members anxious to get literature on a specific subject, especially members wishing to contribute to the Journal.

TREE REGISTRATION

There is little to record under this heading and the Council is anxious to discover the reasons for the lack of interest in this useful type of work.

The adoption of the report was proposed by Mr. Moorehead who paid tribute to the zealotry with which the Council had conducted the varied activities of the Society during the year. Mr. Sharkey in seconding congratulated the Council on its work. "The smooth running of the various outings was" he said "a fitting testimonial."

Abstract of Accounts.

The adoption of the Abstract of Accounts which appears elsewhere in this issue was formally proposed by Mr. Hanahoe, seconded by Mr. Deasy, and unanimously passed.

The President, in accordance with the custom of the Society, then delivered his address reviewing matters of Forestry interest