

NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(Report by MISS R. McDONAGH and M. SWAN).

THE Ninth Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in Jury's Hotel at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, 16th March, 1950. The President, Mr. T. McEvoy was in the chair and the large attendance filled the spacious room to capacity.

On the suggestion of the President the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, which had already appeared in the Journal were taken as read and were signed.

The President then called on the Secretary to read the report of the Council for 1950.

COUNCIL REPORT FOR 1950.

The first meeting of the Council was held on the 4th February, 1950. The new Council appointed sub-committees to deal with arrangements for excursions, the publication of the Journal, to look after finance and tree registration. Eleven members attended this meeting.

The second meeting of the Council was held on the 3rd May. Nine members were present. Final arrangements for the Annual Excursion were completed and a dinner in honour of the Welsh visitors was arranged.

A further meeting of the Council was held on May 24th. Six members attended. The main business was concerned with the arrangement of a programme of day excursions for the summer and autumn.

Further meetings were held on 6th September and on the 29th November. Eight members attended each of these meetings.

MEMBERSHIP.

During the year 18 Associate, 4 Grade I, and 27 Grade II members were enrolled. An analysis of the roll book shows that, with new enrolments and losses due to deaths, resignations and lapsed membership, there are now 118 Associate, 46 Grade I and 81 Grade II members.

The growth of the Society, while not as rapid as the Committee would wish to have it, is satisfactory. With the growing interest in forestry in the country a good enrolment this year is anticipated and members are urged to do their utmost to encourage new members to join. It is felt that the best way of selling the forestry idea to the country is to bring the people into direct contact with the forest through the medium of excursions, attendance at excursions is the surest sign of interest in the Society's activities.

FINANCE.

The abstract of accounts for the year 1950 could not be included with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. Owing to the Bank Strike, the Treasurer was unable to bring the accounts to audit in time. The statement is now to hand and has been circulated at this meeting.

While the statement shows the balance to our credit to be in a very healthy state, it is apparent from a close analysis of the account that current expenditure barely covers current income. We had the cost of only one issue of the Journal to meet last year. We are again indebted to Mrs. A. H. Henry for a further donation of £25 to forward the work of the Society.

JOURNAL.

One issue of the Journal appeared during the period under review. Members and others have commented on the continued high standard of the Journal and the Council is satisfied that in spite of rising costs of printing and paper the Journal should continue to be published and that at least 2 issues should appear each year. The revenue from advertising and sales is well maintained amounting this year to £30 for the one issue. As a result of the work of our Business Editor many County Libraries are now stocking our Journal and this should have the effect of bringing our Society to the notice of a much wider public as well as improving our receipts.

EXCURSION.

The excursions held during the year were very well attended. The Annual 3-Day Excursion was favoured with very good weather and there was a big turnout each day. Our Welsh guests were very pleased with their visit and indeed, their presence added enormously to the pleasure and benefit of the whole outing. The Convener, Mr. O. V. Mooney, and the officers of the Forestry Division are deserving of the highest praise for the organisation and facilities put at our disposal on this and other occasions.

The day excursions were all favoured with good weather in a year when fine days were few and far between. The areas visited were Killakee, Curracloe, Gort and Dundrum.

AUGUSTINE HENRY MEMORIAL.

On the occasion of the 8th Annual General Meeting the Council reported that with the approval of the Minister for Lands and the consent of Mrs. A. H. Henry, a Memorial Grove was to be planted at Avondale. The Council is pleased to report that the ground has been fenced and planted and that a memorial plaque is almost ready for erection. It is hoped to have the formal opening of the Memorial Grove in the early summer.

The adoption of the Council's report and the Abstract of Accounts was proposed by Mr. Chisholm who congratulated the Society on its strong financial position and on its great activity and interest during the year. Mr. Ross seconded and the meeting unanimously agreed to the motion.

THE President thanked the members for doing him the honour of re-electing him for a second term of office and then proceeded to review the past year's developments in the world of forestry as follows :—

EXCURSION.

The President announced that arrangements were now well advanced for the forthcoming annual excursion which this year would be to Scotland. He said that Mr. Clear had very generously donated £15 to cover the expenses of one forester on the excursion. The Society was also providing an equal sum to defray the expenses of a second forester. A sub-committee had been appointed to see that the two lucky foresters would be chosen "by all the laws of chance."

ELECTION OF MR. M. O'BEIRNE TO HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.

Mr. Meldrum in proposing the election of Mr. O'Beirne to honorary membership of the Society said that this was indeed a most pleasant task to him. Mr. O'Beirne was one of our founder members and had served on the Council in many capacities including that of President and the Society owed a great deal of its present well being to his efforts on its behalf. In electing him to honorary membership the Society would be paying a well-deserved tribute to a great Irish forester.

Mr. Ryan in seconding the proposal said his memory of Mr. O'Beirne would always be associated with forestry in Co. Wicklow and in particular with the plantings of Contorta pine on Ballintownbay mountain. This was the first introduction of the species to Ireland and could be directly attributed to Mr. O'Beirne's energy and initiative. He was very glad Mr. O'Beirne had consented to accept honorary membership and his advice and experience would be invaluable to the Society.

The proposal was unanimously carried with acclamation and the President declared Mr. O'Beirne an honorary member of the Society.