

ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Eleventh Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in Jury's Hotel, Dame Street, Dublin, on Saturday, 7th March, 1953. Mr. Meldrum, the retiring President, was in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting, which had appeared in the Journal, were taken as read and were signed. The President then called on the Secretary to read the Council's Report for 1952.

COUNCIL'S REPORT FOR 1952.

At a meeting of the Council held on 28th January, 1952, the Secretary reported that Mr. Roy Cameron had agreed to address the Society on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting. The Council arranged for invitations to the Annual General Meeting to be sent to a wide range of people likely to be interested in this meeting.

The Council also dealt with the proposed visit to Northern Ireland and made provision for the holding of a number of day excursions.

The average attendance at Council Meetings was 10.

MEMBERSHIP

During the year 4 Grade 1, 17 Grade 11 and 10 Associate members were elected.

From an analysis of the statement of accounts it can be seen that income from members' subscriptions has increased from £144 to £156.

However, over £50 was outstanding at the end of the year showing that over 60 members were in arrears.

INCOME

Income included donations from Mrs. A. H. Henry of £15 and from Lord Ashtown £2 2s. 0d. The income from advertising has again reached a high figure and the journal is self supporting thanks to the efforts of Mr. N. Morris, the Business Editor. As a result our finances are in a very healthy state indeed.

JOURNAL

Two issues of the journal appeared during the year and the Editor, Mr. M. Swan is to be complimented on the high standard of both issues. The demand for the journal continues to increase. New subscribers during the year include Soviet Russia and Argentina.

EXCURSIONS

The excursions held during the year have been reported in Vol. IX, No. 2 of our journal. The Society visited Northern Ireland on the 27th to the 29th May. The visit was most enjoyable and instructive and the Council would like to put on record its indebtedness to the Mini-

ster for Agriculture for Northern Ireland and the officials of the Forestry Service for the excellence of the arrangement and the hospitality enjoyed by our members on that occasion.

The Council also wishes to pay tribute to the officials of the Forestry Division, Department of Lands, who gave up their time and did so much to make the day excursions really successful.

In concluding this report of the Society's activities for the year 1952 it is interesting to recall that the first meeting of the Society was held in Jury's Hotel in 1942: 31 persons were present and were enrolled. The Society can look back with satisfaction on the first decade of its activities and claim that it has pursued faithfully the objectives for which it was founded, namely to advance and spread the knowledge of forestry in Ireland. The Council looks forward to a new decade with confidence and with the assurance of the support of the great body of serving foresters and also those in active retirement and a growing circle of enthusiastic associates.

The Abstract of Accounts was then considered and on the motion of Mr. O'Carroll, seconded by Mr. Sharkey, the adoption of both the Council's Report and the Abstract of Accounts was agreed to.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL

The meeting formally confirmed the election of the new Council as given on page 2. The incoming President, Mr. Fitzpatrick, then took the chair.

Election of Mr. Meldrum to Honorary Membership

In proposing the election of Mr. J. A. K. Meldrum to Honorary membership, Mr. S. M. O'Sullivan said that it might not generally be known that Mr. Meldrum had been almost 22 years in the Irish Forest Service. During this time he had never spared himself in furthering the cause of forestry, foresters, and in fact anything appertaining to woods and timber. Land acquisition has, however, been his *forte* and his record of land acquired over the years on behalf of the Forestry Division speaks for itself. In latter years he had made the Forest Service both house and timber conscious.

Mr. Meldrum, he said, had been President of our Society on no fewer than three occasions and he was also the first Editor of our Journal. He had always been a distinguished speaker at both private and public sessions of the Society's meetings.

Mr. O. V. Mooney seconded and the motion was passed with acclamation. Mr. Meldrum suitably thanked the Society for the honour it had conferred on him.

This concluded the private business and after a short interval the President called on Mr. J. McDonald, Director of Research and Forest Education of the British Forestry Commission, to address the meeting on "Forest Research in Great Britain."

The vote of thanks to the lecturer was proposed by Mr. T. Deirg, Minister for Lands, who expressed the Society's appreciation of the kind-

ness of Mr. McDonald in coming, at considerable personal inconvenience, to give us an outline of the work of the British Forestry Commission research organisation. This was not the only occasion, he said, on which they had given us valuable information and Mr. McDonald and his colleagues have always been most kind and helpful in giving us any information at their disposal.

We, in Ireland, he said, had nothing to be ashamed of in our achievements, but we could scarcely hope to compete with countries like Great Britain and Germany. We have the problem of Agriculture v. Forestry in possibly more acute form here, but the land is there, as shown by the Survey of Plantable Lands, without trespassing on agriculture. The quality of the land we are getting here, however, was inferior to what they got in Great Britain—there they get old woodland sites—and they also have the experience of private plantings to draw on.

Our resources were not great, he said, but we have a Soil Research Institute and if forest research on soils was to be developed it might be associated with Johnstown Castle—in any case research would have to be under either the Department of Agriculture or the University.

On the questions of entomology and pathology, he was of opinion, that while the information was useful we have been spared here the pests they have in England.

Mr. T. Clear, in seconding the vote of thanks, said that the British Forestry Commission research has contributed extensively to the techniques of Establishment and Nursery work, and we have benefited considerably by “picking their brains,” but we have not reciprocated. Research is even more essential here than in Great Britain, because here we are facing the unique task of creating forests where trees never existed before and with exotic species, and research alone can direct us on the correct lines. Research, he pointed out, cost the British Forestry Commission only 2% (two per cent.) of their annual budget and this was a small percentage to pay for security. He could not agree, he said, that forest research should be under the Department of Agriculture, but should in his opinion form part of the Forestry Administration and should cover all aspects and operations of the forest.

Mr. Millar, of Bórd na Móna, in associating himself with the vote of thanks, said that some 7,000 to 8,000 acres of peat were at present in production and this was likely to increase considerably in the immediate future. The first 5,000 acres of cutaway will soon be available and reclamation was a problem. The term “peat” he said, was to them what “rock” was to the geologist, because peats vary so much in their composition, acidity (some may even be alkaline), origin, etc., all of which affected the methods of winning used. The nature of the subsoil, whether rock, marl, blue clay, etc., also affects the method. He thought that, as afforestation will probably follow most cutaway, research on reclamation should be by the Forestry Department. Forest research could help Bórd na Móna now, by indicating which method of winning

the peat is best suited to afforestation afterwards, also which method and type of drain at present used can best be adapted for afforestation afterwards. He also suggested the use of peat moss as a possible source of humus for the nursery and also peat moss cups for balling of roots of transplants.

He pointed out that our peats are different from those in England and he suggested the necessity for independent research here as the English results are not always applicable.

The President, Mr. Fitzpatrick, summarised the main points made by the lecturer and supporting speakers and declared himself in favour of Forest Research here, which he emphasised must be on its own and not under the Department of Agriculture.

Before concluding the meeting the President said, that as the Journal had now become almost self-supporting the Council were pleased to announce that for future issues the Editor would be able to pay up to £5 each for original articles published, subject to a maximum payment of £15 per issue. Payment would be made on the recommendation of the Editorial Committee.

Articles should, if possible be typewritten, and must be in final form suitable for publication. Reference to literature should be collected at the end of the paper, and numbered to correspond with the text. It should be understood that the author waives any copyright or translation rights in such articles and that their reproduction in other publications will be permitted, subject to the source being duly acknowledged.

He also announced that the Editor would be glad to receive photographs suitable for reproduction on the cover of the Journal and that the sum of half a guinea would be paid for each one used. A short note on the subject and location should accompany each photograph and should preferably be written on the back.

