

# IRISH FORESTRY

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## *Editorial*

PROBABLY the most notable scientific event in Ireland in 1957 was the holding of the annual meeting of the British Association in Dublin after a lapse of half a century. Equally this was an event in the history of the Association which was meeting for the first time outside the United Kingdom.

Fifty years ago forestry was not of sufficient importance to be recognised as a separate entity by the Association but it has now become, as Section K,\* an important part of the annual meeting.

The meeting of the Forestry Section in Dublin was universally regarded as a marked success, one of the best so far, thanks to a happy co-operation between the Forestry Division of the Department of Lands and the organising committee of the Association. A series of valuable papers was read—most of which we hope to print in this and the Summer, 1958 number—and a varied and interesting programme of tours was arranged to state and private woodlands in Co. Wicklow and to industrial concerns utilizing forest produce in Dublin. A Forestry Division exhibition illustrating excellently by statistics and photographs the progress of state forestry aroused considerable interest not only among foresters and botanists but members in general.

The Society of Irish Foresters, believing in the value of such intercourse, lent its support to this meeting of Irish and British foresters and we were glad to see so many of our members participating in the activities. Equally we were appreciative of the recognition of Irish Forestry implied in the strength of the British and Northern Ireland representation. It is to be hoped that the exchange of ideas and experiences, apart from its undoubted immediate benefits, will form the firm foundation for a continuing co-operation which could contribute enormously to the success of the afforestation projects in neighbouring countries with so much in common.

In the Chairman's Address mention was made of the debt of Irish Forestry to the pioneer efforts of the Forestry Commission and the hope was expressed that we would in the future repay that debt in full. In the use of *Pinus contorta* in the afforestation of poor, exposed sites Irish experience is perhaps the more extensive and Mr. Mooney's paper on the subject was much appreciated by the visiting foresters and might be regarded as a first instalment in our repayment plan. In the course

of the tours interest was particularly keen in the vivid contrast at Glenealy between coastal and inland provenances of this polymorphic species.

Again the extremely rapid growth and comparative hardiness of several eucalypt species in Co. Wicklow was surprising to British workers in this specialised field especially in view of their less fortunate experiences in such apparently favourable climates as that of Cornwall.

These few instances serve to illustrate the value of closer contacts and point the way to a greater economy of time and effort through a co-ordination of research programmes. It was a happy coincidence that the visit of the British Association should have been contemporaneous with the strengthening of the Irish Forestry Service in its general technical personnel and particularly with the establishment of a Research and Assessment Section here; and that it should have been followed by a visit of the Minister for Lands to study state forestry in Scotland.

We confidently predict that our successors in the next generation, when perhaps the British Association again meets in Dublin, will be able to record the case history of an extremely successful symbiosis!

#### ST. PATRICK'S OAK

This picture, which was taken in 1957, was sent to us by Forstmeister Peter Hantermann of Zwingenberg, Germany. A translation of the words on the plaque runs: "St. Patrick's Oak planted on 1st June, 1956 by members of the Society of Irish Foresters on the occasion of their visit to Zwingenberg."

