

## Sixteenth Annual General Meeting.

THE sixteenth Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin, on Saturday, 15th March, 1958.

The private meeting was opened by the outgoing President, Mr. O. V. Mooney. There was a very small attendance of members at this stage.

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, having been published in Vol. XIV, No. 1, "Irish Forestry", were taken as read.

The Secretary then read the Council's Report for 1957.

### Council's Report

THE new Council met on 22nd January, 1957, at 85 Harcourt Street, Dublin. There were seven members present. Mr. O. V. Mooney, President, welcomed the new members and expressed his thanks to the members of the previous Council for their co-operation during the past year.

The following Committees were appointed:—Editorial, to arrange the issues of the Journal; Finance, to deal with the question of expenditure, etc.; Excursion, to organise the Annual Study Tour and local excursions. Committees were also appointed to deal with Membership and the Constitution.

The meeting made preliminary arrangements for the Annual General Meeting.

It was decided to hold the Annual Study Tour in the Limerick Area from the 3rd to 6th June, 1957. A programme of Day Excursions was drawn up to include the following venues:—Deerpark, Blessington, Knockrath, Rathdrum, Portlaoighs, Clonmel, Mallow and Sligo.

The Council met again on Tuesday, 19th February, 1957, when final arrangements were made for the Annual General Meeting. Seven members were present.

A Meeting of the Council was held on 25th June, 1957 when eight members were present. The suggestion made at the Annual General Meeting that some of the funds of the Society should be invested in a plantation was considered and it was decided that this would not be a practical proposition with the money available. Reports were received from the Editorial and Excursion Committees.

A Meeting of the Council was held on 24th September, 1957 when six members were present. The report of the Excursion Committee was received and the best thanks of the Council were extended to Mr. McNamara for the success of the Annual Study Tour.

A Meeting of the Council was held on 12th November, 1957 at which nine members were present. The meeting considered a letter from the Minister for Lands intimating that he would receive a deputation from the Society in the third week in November. The following

were appointed to represent the Council at this meeting: Mr. O. V. Mooney, President; Mr. D. Mangan, Vice-President; Mr. T. Clear, Secretary; Mr. M. Sharkey and Mr. M. J. Cosgrave.

The meeting noted the nominations received for the election of Officers and Council and arrangements were made for a ballot where necessary.

The final meeting of the Council for 1957 was held on Tuesday, 3rd December, 1957 when five members were present. The Secretary reported on the meeting with the Minister for Lands, held on 28th November, 1957 and it was agreed that a full report should be prepared by the members of the deputation. The Report of the Editorial Committee recommended that the price of the Journal be increased to 5/- per copy and this was approved by the Council. The meeting decided to recommend to the Annual General Meeting certain alterations in the Constitution.

*MEMBERSHIP:* The Statement of Accounts show that paid up members on the 31st December, 1956 were:—  
Grade 1, 45; Grade II, 67 and Associate 85.

*JOURNAL:* Two issues of the Journal appeared during the year.

The Adoption of the Council's Report and the Financial Statement was proposed by Mr. Chisholm and seconded by Mr. F. P. Clarke and was carried unanimously.

The members at the meeting then stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. John O'Leary.

After Mr. Mooney had given his valedictory address, Mr. Mangan, the new President, paid a warm tribute to the work of Mr. Mooney and said that the Society had reached new heights under his able leadership. He (Mr. Mangan) hoped he would be equally successful.

The results of the Ballot for the new Council were announced and the election was confirmed by the meeting. The programme of excursions for 1958 was then outlined.

Mr. Mangan then called on Mr. McEvoy to explain the changes in the Constitution proposed by the Council. The meeting adopted by a two-thirds majority the changes proposed in relation to Article V and Article VI. After some discussion the resolution proposing changes in Article VIII was withdrawn.

## President's Address

**T**HOUGH no phenomenal event such as the great storm of January 31st and February 4th, 1957 occurred since our last Annual General Meeting, it seems to me that there have been a number of important happenings and portents which have widened, brightened, and warmed, the forestry horizon more significantly than has been the case for many years.

*State Forestry.*

In the sphere of State Forestry we had earlier in the year the setting up of a Research and Assessment section. Irish foresters have felt for many years that they had young forests which were at least the equal in quality and interest of those in Great Britain, but they have sorely felt the need for organized and scientific interpretation of results—whether of success or failure—and consequently the coming of research is a welcome and really great thing for Irish Forestry.

The tackling of the assessment problem—a vital step to proper scientific management in any forestry service—suggests besides that the industrial potential of our forests is now appreciated by the powers that be. The initiation too of Time and Motion Studies in respect of the work in our forests is something to be welcomed also as a proper appreciation of the economics of the work. From this approach much good should flow not only to the morale of the men who work in the forest, but also in regard to the upgrading of the output from their efforts which will, we hope, be accompanied by a maintenance of a high standard of quality in the various operations.

The routine look that we usually take at the figures from State Forest activities during the year suggests also a brighter outlook. The 1956-57 planting season concluded with an area of 17,407 acres having been planted and the moderate climatic conditions of this winter suggest that the provisional programme for 1957-58 of 20,000 acres will be achieved; this will give us the biggest area planted in any single year so far. The figures for 1956-57 for the more important species show S.S. at 40%; P.C. at 31%; N.S. at 9.5% and hardwoods at 3.8% of the total number planted. The total area planted to date now stands at 247,000 acres.

The land acquired in 1956-57 was 18,731 acres of which some 2,646 acres was unplanted.

It is probable that something in the region of 25,000 acres of land will be acquired by the end of March this year which would bring the total forest holding up to 364,024 acres or thereabouts.

Forest Produce sold in 1956-57 brought in £229,634. It comprised 3,118,243 cubic feet of material under 8" Q.Q.B.H. and 738,976 cubic feet over 8"; other produce sold included 43,944 Christmas trees.

Sawmills receipts accounted for £29,170 giving a total receipts figure of £258,804.

The final estimate of the volume of trees blown down by the gales of January and February 1957 was 3,000,000 cubic feet.

This premature arrival on the general market of some heavy and mostly medium and small sized produce did not depress prices for raw material as might have been expected but, if anything, raised prices a little. It had also the effect of stimulating the home market and the home timber merchants were able to meet the expansion of trade in a very capable manner. In fact one gets the old feeling again—that of

regret that planting on a big scale had not been carried out in the twenties and earlier so that this sudden impetus, so well responded to in the open market, could be maintained as routine successional fellings in the years immediately in front of us.

As a forester I hesitate to say that the storm might be regarded as a blessing in disguise by reason of its premature stimulation of greater real interest in the business world in the produce of the forest. But it seems to be quite clear that industrialists have now gone past the stage of estimating the technical capabilities of our forests whether for timber or pulp, and are at the moment mostly concerned with how much our forests can give.

Nobody has as yet attempted to write up this famous storm, assess its silvicultural implication, but on their Study Tour last year members had ample opportunities to see the type of damage done.

#### *Reports from F.A.O.*

F.A.O. of U.N.O. of which this country is a member Government, has much of interest to us in *European Forestry Commission, 9th Session, May 1957.*

They refer in their review of the National Progress Reports on Forestry to the efforts of member Governments being directed more and more towards "Afforestation, at least in the countries of central and southern Europe, considerable areas being planted to poplars."

"The promotion in nearly all countries of the private small woodland" and, more generally towards the integration of Private Forestry in their national economies.

"Increased productivity by increased efficiency in logging operations and by setting up of new factories to absorb these forest products that have until now been more or less discarded by industry."

They also draw attention in their report as a matter of primary importance to the "control of the origin and quality of *forest seed and planting stock*" and it was stated that "this control was being pursued or initiated in several countries in several ways." This whole question is being given "due consideration not only by science but also by practice, and relevant legislative measures are being taken in a number of countries."

"Consequently the commission recommended that the Director General should draw the attention of member Governments to the great importance of an efficient control of the origin and quality of forest seed and planting stock, to avoid serious mistakes in establishing new forests and in particular, should urge those governments which at present have no such control to take appropriate measures as soon as possible to remedy the situation."

The Commission also reported that European Governments recognised the great advantage for farmers to have small woodlots closely linked to the farm economy and they thought that if fruitful results

were to emerge that agricultural and forest development would have to go hand in hand and not be planned separately.

It was recorded too that Myxomatosis which had so greatly helped forestry in recent years was now declining sharply in virulence. We here in Ireland know this and all foresters are fully aware that rabbits are on the increase and are spreading from the uninfected areas and are to be seen in numbers in their old haunts. If we just stand and watch this repopulation we will soon find ourselves in a position of having lost all the valuable benefits brought to us by Myxomatosis.

The Editorial in *Irish Forestry* Vol. XIV. No. 1 Summer 1957 deals very fully with the dangers of the returning rabbit and shows how opportunity to combat the danger may well slip through our fingers. The matter is, of course, not only of forestry, but of country-wide and national importance. In the fields of entomology the Commission while very much interested in the virus control of insects do not hand out any short cuts to general insect control that might affect us here. They say in fact that "Chemical control methods of forest insect pests are exceedingly expensive and effects of insecticides used on other animal species are not yet known for sure."

*The F.A.O. World Market Review to 31st August, 1957* and the *Yearbook of Forest Products Statistics 1957* indicate that the steady upward trend during the post war period of roundwood removals has been maintained (1956, 1,583 million cu.m.) but estimated world prices for sawwood, plywood, pitprops and other industrial woods showed slight reduction from 1955 to 56. There is, however, an increase in the total value of wood pulp.

"Exports of wood products, expressed in roundwood equivalents decreased from 1955 record level of 159 million cu.m. to 155 million cu.m. Reduced exports were reported from all the main exporting regions, and increases were only noted from Africa, Asia and the Pacific area.

"Once again sawn wood output declined slightly in 1956 from 296 million cu.m. to 295 million cu. m. The Plywood industry did not maintain its previous steep rising trends in 1956 and only rose from 10.7 million cu.m. to 11.3 million cu.m.—only a slight increase.

"On the other hand pulp wood output continued to rise and production came from 46 million tons to 49.0 million tons—a record figure. The largest individual increases are Japan 15%, France 9%, Italy 8%, with North America and Europe the largest producers.

"Fibreboard also reached a new high level of 3.34 million tons in 1956, while paper, newsprint and paper board showed corresponding increases.

"Pulpwood production rose 9% in 1955 but consumption kept ahead of production and rose 11%. Trade increase over 1946 figures was nearly 100%. With literacy and world population increasing the outlook is a bright one in the pulpwood field."

*The F.A.O. Report of The European Market* brings us much nearer to the present time than in the similar *World Review*—understandably so.

They indicate that the volume of sawn softwood imports by countries in Europe during 1957 amounted to one quarter of a million standards more than in 1956, imports of pulpwood remained unchanged and plywood imports showed a decline. They say, too, that although the total volume of trade in 1957 seems to amount to more than in 1956 and the total consumption of wood in Europe during 1957 is also likely to exceed somewhat the 1956 level, the year 1957 cannot be regarded as an altogether satisfactory one for the European timber trade.

And they conclude their Report with the following sobering paragraphs.

"Europe's timber trade, particularly that in sawnwood, which during the past two or even three years has seen profit margins narrowing or even disappearing, and which, particularly in the course of the current year, has seen additional difficulties emerge in the form of dearer money and financial restrictions, faces 1958 with perhaps more uncertainty than was the case at the beginning of previous campaigns.

"Despite the growing marketing difficulties caused by rigidity of resale prices as against the rising tendency of production costs and export prices, the increasing total consumption of sawnwood in Europe has nevertheless made it possible in many cases to find in a larger turnover compensation for smaller unit profits.

"There is no doubt that the small but steady increase in the total consumption of sawnwood during recent years has been caused by the continuous expansion of industrial and economic activities in practically every country in Europe.

"In fact Europe's total industrial activity increased by some 10% in 1955 and about 5% in 1956. By the end of the first half of 1956, however, the expansion had begun to slow down and during the first three-quarters of 1957 was at a rate of less than 2%. Thus, with the principal incentive for maintaining or even slightly increasing demand disappearing Europe's total consumption of sawnwood in 1958 might well, for the first time since the war, show a decline.

"It seems clear also that in such conditions buyers and consumers will be even less prepared to pay higher prices than before."

#### *B.A. Meeting in Dublin.*

An outstanding event of the year not only for forestry but for all the other sciences and for Dublin was the meeting in this City of the British Association for Advancement of Science in September last.

The Forestry Sub-Section met under the Chairmanship of Mr. McEvoy and the local Secretaryship of Mr. Clear. The occasion provided Foresters and others interested in forestry here with the oppor-

tunity of meeting many notabilities from abroad including a particularly strong contingent from the B.F.C. Research Section lead by Mr. Laurie.

The Forestry Division of the Department of Lands staged an exhibit in the College of Science entitled "Fifty Years of Irish Forestry" which by photograph, graphical illustration and specimen demonstration illustrated many facets of Irish Forestry, high lighting in particular the history, performance and utilisation of *Pinus contorta* and Sitka spruce, our two most important planting species. The Department also entertained the Members at Shelton Forestry School and conducted them on visits to Avondale, Glenealy and Delgany Forests. Considerable notice was taken by the visitors of the exceptionally high yielding *Eucalyptus* stands at Glenealy and of the fine 53 year old stand of *Tsuga heterophylla* at Avondale.

A visit was also made to that very remarkable pinetum at Powerscourt which I fear is not at all well enough known to Irish Foresters.

The members spent also very instructive afternoons at Clondalkin Paper Mills and at the mills of Irish Timber Industries Ltd.

Apart from the Chairman's address on "Forestry in Ireland" we had papers directly relating to Forestry.

"Afforestation of Peat Lands in Northern Ireland."

*K. F. Parkin.*

"Ecological problems arising in afforestation of peat land in Northern Ireland."

*R. E. Parker.*

"Yield Regulations and forecasts of production."

*Dr. F. C. Hummel.*

"Some experiences in Survey and Assessment of growing stock for Forest Management purposes."

*T. Clear.*

"Economics in Forest Management."

*W. E. Hiley.*

"Roads for economic timber extraction."

*E. R. Huggard.*

The benefits to all taking part, both from discussion and papers indoors and in the Forests, and from personal contacts made with foresters from other parts of the world were of the greatest importance.

Fortunately the members of our Society can benefit also as most of the papers read at the meeting will be published in the next and succeeding journals.

#### *Publications.*

Last year I attempted by brief reference to draw attention to the more useful publications brought out by F.A.O. but as it is impossible to keep fully in touch I will not repeat the attempt this year.

There has been, however, one publication which should have a general appeal and be of great practical aid to any forester or anyone interested in trees. It is *Forestry Commission Bulletin No. 30. "Exotic Forest Trees in Great Britain."* H.M. Stationery Office, 17/6. This is

not a booklet on forest botany but it deals with practically every imaginable exotic including the common silver fir (*Abies alba*), Norway spruce, Sitka spruce and so on to such interesting species as *Cupressocyparis Leylandii* and *Nothofagus* species in a most detailed way under an exhaustive number of heads, e.g. Country of Origin, Historical Notes, Extent of Planting, Climatic Requirements, Site Requirements, Establishment Technique, Tending and Thinning, Other Silvicultural Characteristics, Rate of Growth, Yield, Diseases and Pests, Other forms of Damage, Seed and Seed bearing, Genetics and Breeding, Natural Regeneration, Timber, Potentialities in National Economy.

All this information together with eight Climatological maps covering these Islands and dealing with matters from rainfall to wind velocity, as well as some fine photographs make this book superior to all other works on the subject for everyday general information on the species used in our forestry work here. It must certainly enrich any forester's knowledge and provide him with a wide and safe reference. The Editors are James McDonald, R. F. Wood, M. V. Edwards and J. R. Aldous.

#### *Society Affairs.*

Looking back on our own year I hope that we may regard it as quietly successful. After our visit to Germany some may have thought that our Study Tour to Limerick and Co. Clare would be an anticlimax. We were, therefore, very pleased indeed to have 45 members, which is well up to average for any outing, and I think they all went home well satisfied due to the competent handling of the tour by a capable and imaginative excursion committee.

Our activities later in the year may have been overshadowed by the British Association Meeting and perhaps to some extent they may have drawn the fire of some of our Council members but we had nevertheless some very informative Sunday outings.

I would like to commend the Editor and the Business Editor for much work and considerable achievement and again, as last year, offer sincere thanks to our Secretary and a lively and hardworking Council.

Finally, in demitting office in a formal way now, I would like to thank you for the honour you have done me in keeping me as President for two years and wish our new President, Mr. Mangan, every success in his term of office, which I know he will have because he is well fitted for the task. It is already evident by his keen active approach to affairs during the few weeks that he has been acting in office that Mr. Mangan will do justice to his stewardship and with his undoubted popularity among all members a good year lies ahead for the Society.

The private business of the meeting having been concluded the President called on Dr. Axel S. Sabroe to read his paper on "Danish and Irish Forestry Compared" the text of which appears elsewhere in this issue.



## Discussion on Dr. Sabroe's Paper

**Mr. T. O'Brien**, Secretary, Department of Lands, in proposing a vote of thanks to Dr. Sabroe said :—

"I welcome the opportunity of proposing a vote of thanks to Dr. Sabroe. It is very satisfying indeed to have here with us a distinguished and acknowledged forestry expert in the person of Dr. Sabroe. It is an honour and a privilege which I have no doubt this Society appreciates and we have been very fortunate in securing him. Here in Ireland we are most willing to learn about the best forestry practices and working plans—it is no harm to be eclectic or to borrow from the best doctrines we can find elsewhere and Dr. Sabroe, out of the abundance of his experience, is superbly qualified, as he has just demonstrated, to talk to us and enlighten us about the issues.

"In this country, if not elsewhere, forestry can be a very emotional subject. Among the various tastes in thought that exist about almost every worthwhile project there will be the inevitable extremes; in forestry, some group will be fetched by what I might call the merely sentimental or romantic side, seeing poetry in trees swaying in the wind or becoming 'heady' at the fall of Autumn leaves, while at the other end, one may encounter the hard-hitting critic who says in stiff prose 'these afforestation enthusiasts are overdoing it—if they were to get their way, whole sections of the country would be planted and to Hades with agricultural food. What do they expect us to do with the timber? Eat it! why, we would have to become a nation of wood-peckers.' The truth is that we can, of course, eat the worth of timber, for it is a very realisable commodity. The National Forest Authority will decline to get caught between the upper and lower jaws of the competing controversialists and will go about its own task which, in this country, is the establishment of an adequate forest estate; and the import figures for timber and timber derivatives show that there is quite a sizeable home market to be supplied.

"It is acknowledged and quite true that Ireland does possess some distinct advantages in tree-growth arising from rain-fall and climate generally. Nearly every variety of tree will grow much faster here than, say, in Scandanavia, and the production of a given yield of timber requires a much greater area of fully stocked forest in Northern Europe than in Ireland.

"In sum, the total area just now held by the Forestry Service of the Department of Lands is about 360,000 acres, of which 310,000 acres are plantable, and of that almost 260,000 acres have, in fact, been planted at 174 different Forest Centres throughout the country. Incidentally, over the last ten years 130,000 acres were planted; that includes the season just now ending in which the highest planting rate ever attained here will be recorded, i.e. 20,000 acres of new plantations are being laid down this season, so that it is now possible to say that

something more than half the total accomplished has been planted in the last decade. Apart from the State Forests, there are about 90,000 acres of woodlands in the hands of private owners.

"In the State Forests income is mounting and in the current year receipts from timber will be well in excess of a quarter million pounds. Dr. Sabroe has mentioned that during his previous visit in 1956 he learned that difficulty was being experienced in finding a market for Spruce thinnings. As you are all aware there has been a considerable improvement in outlets for the disposal of thinnings and Spruce in particular is one of our best sellers. We look forward confidently to further developments in the pulp field which will provide expanded markets for our thinnings.

"I said earlier that we were willing to learn and that is a mark of every progressive group but I can say this too—that as to the splendid quality of our existing plantations, there is on record in the Department very fine tributes from foreign experts. I interpret them as tributes to the knowledge and skill of our own Inspectors and Forester staff and it is an immense pleasure for me to say so for their worthiness deserves to be acknowledged. I think it was Samuel Johnson who said that the Irish people were the most honest he had found for the reason that they always think the worst of themselves. If country X has a sheep breed it is superb, if country Y has timber, it is wonderful: nearly always cited and mostly by ourselves as superior to ours. I don't accept that form of self-reproach or understating ourselves. Most of you know of the commonly held but unfounded belief that Irish timber is inferior to imported timber; in order to overcome this prejudice the Department set up sawmills and drying-kilns and produced native timber, properly treated and seasoned, of such quality as to demonstrate to and convince the public that native produce is equally good. Prejudice dies hard but a number of the enlightened timber merchants have added their weight and with their co-operation that struggle is beginning to be won. Forestry in Ireland is taking a big step forward and the Minister for Lands, under whose jurisdiction the Forestry Service comes, said in the Dáil about a fortnight ago that a greater area than ever before will be acquired for afforestation this year and that next year the planting programme will be expanded still further."

**Captain Charles Tottenham** of Ashford, Co. Wicklow, a private estate owner, in supporting the vote of thanks told of a 2,000 acre private estate in North Jutland which he visited in 1956. The estate was purely a forestry one with no agricultural land and had been purchased as a going concern only 30 years ago. The owner's entire income came from the produce of his woods. In Denmark a man can live comfortably, bring up a family and provide employment for 15 men on 2,000 acres of woodland. He compared this with conditions in this country where, in most cases, estate woodlands were regarded by the owners simply as amenity and game covert, seldom as a source of

income. He mentioned that in Ireland we are accustomed to seeing acre upon acre of wasted land: *hills* covered with bracken, furze and heather where a few sheep struggle for existence; *hedges* between our fields and along our roadsides often anything between 10 and 20 feet thick; hundreds of acres of *undrained bog* where the only inhabitants are turf cutters and wild fowl. In Denmark, on the contrary, there does not appear to be a single square yard wasted and not only that but every square yard seems to be put to its fullest use. Captain Tottenham referred to the great kindness extended to him by the owner of the estate, Herr von Folsach, whose guest he was for a fortnight and gave interesting information on various aspects of the work carried out.

In referring to his own estate he mentioned that when he took over the running of his 500 acres of woodlands six years ago there were at that time about 130 acres of completely unproductive land under bracken and furze, 60 acres of unproductive indigenous oak, 50 acres of young conifers and 260 acres of over-mature timber. Through membership of the Society he met Mr. Thomas Clear who undertook to act as his consultant and who prepared a working plan for the estate. Mr. Clear and himself have since been working together in complete harmony.

His visit to Denmark, inspired by Mr. Clear, was the greatest encouragement he could possibly have had and now he was glad to say that the greater part of the unproductive woods were being gradually turned into vigorous young plantations and money has begun to be available to finance what was an extremely under-capitalised 800 acre farm—even the farm has started to pay he said.

In order to reduce costs he had decided to carry out most of his planting with the faster growing conifers at a spacing of 7 ft. by 7 ft. This spacing in Britain qualified for a planting grant and he wondered whether the same will apply in Ireland. He thought it would probably be difficult to convince the Forestry Division that this is good forestry. He had seen a Douglas fir plantation 20 years old planted at 7 ft. by 7 ft. and it looked to him more healthy than one of the same age planted at 5 ft. by 5 ft. He said that he firmly believed that there is a great future for the private woodlands of Ireland and that we could take a leaf out of Denmark's book and have our private and state forests both producing for the benefit of the country. The Society has done very good work in this direction by bringing the private foresters into contact with their government colleagues and he felt that the cordial relations between them in this Society could be extended further afield.

**Mr. T. Ua Cearbhaill**, Superintendent of the forestry school at Shelton Abbey, in speaking to the paper first referred to the achievements of the Danes in the field of agriculture and compared and contrasted them with what has been done in this country.

Turning to forestry he said :—

"From what Dr. Sabroe has said about Denmark's soil, low rainfall, low temperatures and constant high winds as compared with conditions here it would appear that we have all the advantages but the fact remains that they have all the forests (!) and I suggest that if Denmark had our advantages in regard to climate and soil variety, aspects and elevations that their forestry acreage would be on an even greater scale. Some doubts have been voiced as to the wisdom of our large-scale peat plantings but I would point out that 14% of Denmark's forests are on reclaimed heathland and dunes much of which was practically sterile and with hard pan underneath and I consider that our chances of success are not less than theirs. I understand that Denmark is now considering the possibility of draining 100,000 acres of lakes for land reclamation.

"Forestry in Denmark has been under systematic management for almost 150 years and so they have not got the pioneering difficulties which we must face. They are far ahead of us, naturally, in their silviculture and their forestry is now a paying proposition which fact is reflected in the amount of private forestry carried on there.

"Dr. Sabroe has informed us that more than half of Denmark's forestry is private forestry. This may have come as a surprise to many of our members in a country where the state is being expected to carry all the load of the establishment of forests. Here in Ireland we have an estimated 90,000 acres of private woodland—mostly first-class forest land capable of the higher yields but in very poor condition owing to its having been picked over time and again of its merchantable timber. These woodlands, properly managed, could be the finest woodlands in the country and certainly would not need a booster to grow the poorer quality pines but rather would grow hardwoods and the more profitable species from Western North America. With a propaganda campaign, an advisory service and some financial help these woods could add very considerably to the country's forestry stocks.

"Education is the path to all social and economic progress and the Danes possess what one might call a forest sense, or forest consciousness, and are blessed with a forest tradition. There, agriculture and forestry have their recognition as professions and the work of the agricultural scientist and the forester have been accorded an appreciation which, so far, has not been forthcoming here. Lately there has been a realization here of the importance of the pure agricultural scientist to the community but we still await similar recognition of the forester. On one point at least I believe we can compare favourably with Denmark in forestry and that is in our technical staff. If there are any idealists left in Ireland to-day they must surely be found in the technical forest service. The majority of these men took up forestry as a profession or career at a time when it was neither fashionable nor profitable to do so because they believed that here was something of a challenge—something of permanent benefit to the country and an opportunity to play a

man's part. I am not so naive as to suggest that a means of paying for the groceries was not also a consideration! Many of these men embarked in forestry when they could have easily chosen a more lucrative profession and it is not by any accident that they are engaged in forestry work. I make this point to emphasise that the essential basic ingredient for the success of afforestation in Ireland is here as it is in Denmark—that is a keen, dedicated and efficient staff who realize that success or failure of the forestry programme will depend upon the initiative and efficiency in the field.

"We all have the highest admiration for the efficiency of the Danish foresters and for the depths of their silvicultural knowledge and we realize that knowledge of silviculture cannot be dispensed like pills in a box but must be acquired by study and experience. At a time when "get rich quick" methods are being advocated for forestry—despite the bitter experience of Saxony and Switzerland of transgressing sound silvicultural practice—it is refreshing to find the College of Forestry of the State University of New York choosing as the first publication of its proposed World Forestry Series the subject of "The Theory and Practice of Thinning" as expounded by Professor Carl Möller, the leading contemporary silviculturist in Scandinavia, and we note that this forester of international repute must never have heard of 'mechanical thinning.'

"I feel that Dr. Sabroe has been much too modest here to-night. He could, no doubt, have told us much more about his country's work on seed provenance, on tree-breeding and of the magnificent spirit of his country's foresters and their will to work.

"Perhaps, if, like Denmark, we had more private forestry we would all be better foresters and there would be more enterprise and less tendency towards the subjection of initiative inherent in any completely state-run concern.

"In conclusion may I say that it was a pleasure and an education to listen to Dr. Sabroe, a man who has left his own imprint on Danish forestry and whose book, *Forestry in Denmark*, published by the Danish Forestry Society tells so wonderfully well the story of his beloved forests and in relation to his paper may I quote for him from the Dean of the College of Forestry in Syracuse.

'Forestry in common with other human endeavours will flourish through applying the results of scientific research, through exchange of information and ideas and through vigorous trade in forest products. The more Societies exchange ideas and results the more fruitful their discoveries become and the more nations exchange raw materials and industrial products the greater the prosperity they enjoy.'