
Excursion to Borris Forest

ON Sunday, 9th July, a visit was arranged by the Society of Irish Foresters to Borris Forest. Mr. Crerand welcomed the Society's members and friends, on behalf of the Minister for Lands, to the forest, and after giving a short outline of its history, handed us over to Mr. Mooney who was leader for the day. We were standing at The Nine

Stones so there was quite a view of the forest beneath us as well as Mount Leinster and Slievebawn rising on either side. Mr. Mooney gave details of the geology of the area, it being the end of the Leinster chain of granite.

A few yards brought us to our first stop of the day—the divide between two *Pinus contorta* stands, one planted in 1950, the other in 1951. The 1950 crop was appreciably better. Mr. Mooney gave figures of a height growth assessment that he had made. A general discussion ensued regarding the relative vigour of the two crops, but it was more or less agreed that provenance was the real reason for the difference.

From there we went on to visit a Japanese larch stand in which a thinning was marked. L. O'Flanagan gave figures of volume per acre and increment. These were compared with the British Forestry Commission Yield Tables. Mr. Hanan spoke about the *Pinus contorta* Volume Tables which had recently been completed. He was questioned as to why Hoppus measurement has been used and replied that the tables had actually been made in true measure and converted into Hoppus, which was the type of measurement that timber-buyers were familiar with in this country.

Our next stop was a *Pinus contorta* crop, planted in 1938, which has been reserved for seed production. Mr. N. O Carroll outlined the criteria by which the seed trees had been selected, principally vigour and good form, and explained that future thinnings would be carried out, both to remove undesirable elements and to favour crown development and seed production of the selected trees. He said that the reason for this project, in which some of our best stands would be dedicated to seed production, was due to the difficulty in importing reliable *contorta* seed.

After a short visit to a poor Scots pine stand, we repaired for tea, after which Mr. Hanan thanked the Forester-in-Charge, Mr. M. J. Swords, and all concerned, for an interesting afternoon.

L.O'F.