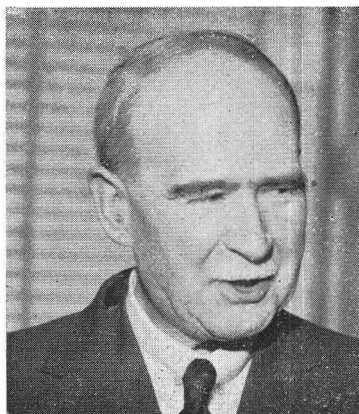


Obituary

THE death of Doctor Anderson, as he was always known during his stay in Ireland, will have a very personal impact on all Irish foresters who have served for more than twenty years in this country. To these foresters he is fresh in memory as is so frequently well illustrated in every day discussion even now when one may well hear such passages as "Dr. Anderson made the Selection of Sitka for this ground", or "Dr. Anderson directed that the road should go in that direction", or again "Dr. Anderson marked that particular thinning" and so on, and so frequently.



[Photo by courtesy the "Irish Times"]

The fact is that not only did Dr. Anderson make a great personal impact on all foresters that served under him but also due to his indefatigable energy he had built up for each one a series of technical events or silvicultural occasions on the ground which are rarely forgotten. He was recognised here as a great and completely dedicated forester who earned the loyalty and esteem of those who worked with him and one who communicated a high sense of duty and forestry motive to all who served under him.

The term of a dedicated man applied to Dr. Anderson in the very highest sense possible, for practically all his time outside his long official hours was given to forestry and even when he went on holiday he was frequently to be found roving the nearby forests.

Born in Scotland in 1895 Dr. Anderson took up his studies at Edinburgh University Forestry School before the first World War. He served in the British forces throughout the first World War and was decorated with the Military Cross. He returned to his studies immediately after the war and took his B.Sc. in 1919 after reading brilliant courses in forestry; five years later he took his D.Sc.

He first went to the British Forestry Commission as a district officer and later as Research Officer in Scotland where he was concerned in important early work on peats, thinning, mensuration and in the nursery. From 1924 he was Research Officer for England and Wales, after which in 1926 he took an appointment as Forestry Inspector in the then Department of Agriculture in Ireland. He returned to Britain in 1928 as lecturer in the Imperial Forestry Institute in Oxford, but was back in the service of the Forestry Division in Ireland in 1932 where he was shortly promoted to Chief Forestry Inspector, in 1934.

He held this post till 1940 when he was made Director of Forestry. In November 1946 he resigned and went back to the Imperial Forestry Institute in Oxford as Deputy Director and finally in 1951 he took the chair of Forestry at Edinburgh University on the retirement of Professor Stebbing.

From the time of his appointment as Chief Forestry Inspector Professor Anderson dominated the forest scene in Ireland. He was associated with the first upsurge in forestry in the early thirties when planting rose from a few thousand acres per annum to 7,388 acres in 1938. His period here was also associated with early expansion in utilisation, road making and thinning and the first Census of Woodlands, carried out during the war when planting had to be curtailed, was completed under his direction.

Little justice can be done to Professor Anderson's qualities in a limited space but his ability to cope with every facet of office work in forestry as Director and Chief Forestry Inspector and yet keep in close personal touch with all operations in the country was extraordinary. His grasp of detail and memory of that detail, was remarkable and up to the time of his retirement he held a rein on the individual forest within the total forestry programme each year.

Professor Anderson was a man of many parts and took as intimate a part in road making, bridge building, sawmilling as in the more orthodox forestry arts of silviculture and mensuration. In particular, Professor Anderson was a champion of the natural forest and distrusted what he regarded the economic *cum* artificial approach, the supporters of which he dubbed 'yard a year foresters'. He was associated at least in part in the recognition of the part lodgepole pine could play in our forestry here and is well known for the system of planting hardwood groups with conifers—the Anderson groups. His interest in Eucalypts has given us some plantations of this species unique in Ireland and Britain.

The formation of the Society of Irish Foresters was largely due to his influence and enthusiasm and he was a foundation member at the inaugural meeting on 21st September, 1942. He was the Society's first President in 1943-44, Editor in 1945 and Council member in 1946, and he is remembered well in its annals.

Much of Professor Anderson's written work remains unpublished but his best known works here are "Selection of Tree Species" and "The Natural Woodlands of Britain and Ireland". An able linguist he translated many works from the Northern European countries and his translation of Dr. Syrach Larsen's *Genetics in Silviculture* in 1956 made available a most valuable work to readers in English language. It is understood that a "History of Scottish Forestry" is recently completed but not yet published.

When we met Professor Anderson on the occasion of his reading a

Paper at the 17th Annual General Meeting in 1959, although he protested that he could not go up the mountains as of yore he looked fit and we thought there were many years before him. His death on the 9th September, 1961, has saddened us all and our deepest sympathy goes out to Mrs. Anderson, his daughter and sons.