

Home-Grown Timber Prices and Forestry Costings

By Cyril E. Hart.

*Available from the author at "Chenies", Coleford, Gloucestershire.
pp. 24. 6s. post free.*

ALTHOUGH intended for use in Great Britain this booklet should be of value to Irish forestry people, particularly those in the private sector.

Looking through the prices—they are given as those for 1962-63 and cover the usual range of forest products—it seems that, on the whole, they approximate closely to those obtaining here. The price stated for sycamore under the heading "Decorative Veneers", viz. £1 to £7 per Hoppus ft. standing, is something which this reviewer has not run into in this country, however. The fact that the more slow-growing and exacting species such as—walnut, oak and beech, are away behind by comparison points to a more important and secure place than hitherto for this tree which is not only easily propagated and easily established but is also a good shelter tree and aesthetically attractive as well.

Owners of sycamore trees should remember, however, that veneer logs should be at least 7 ft. long and not less than 6 ft. in girth and that the price hinges on grain pattern. As this latter cannot be fully judged until the log is felled and worked, one wonders what system is employed to enable the buyer and seller to agree on an equitable price.

For those interested in laying down private plantations—and in Great Britain it is not only farmers and estate owners who do this; large sums are invested in forestry annually by syndicates of heavily-

taxed people in order to take advantage of the taxation and death duty concessions applicable to forests—there is a step by step costing of the different phases of establishment with information on the Planting and Management grants available. The costs as well as estimates of costs of felling and extracting the various kinds of timber are related to the current minimum agricultural wage in Great Britain which is £8-15-0 for 46 hours for adult men.

Forestry as an investment is dealt with briefly but informatively and the matters of estate duty, income tax and surtax under the different schedules are touched on.

Nurserymen will be interested in the price list for forest tree plants.
..... Good value at the price.

J.J.D.
