

## Excursion to Lough Gill Forest

A day excursion was held at Lough Gill Forest on Sunday, 8th July, 1962. Leader for the day was Mr. L. Condon. A small but enthusiastic attendance included a party of members from Northern Ireland.

The party visited Hazelwood Property and the first item of interest was found in C. 11 where a very fine crop of Norway spruce (P/42) with Ash groups at 26'  $\times$  26' was inspected. This gave rise to a most interesting discussion on the merits and demerits of 'group' versus 'line' planting of hardwoods through a coniferous matrix. Mr. Johnston, Mr. Dallas, Mr. McCool, Mr. Haughy and many other speakers contributed to the discussion. The general concensus of opinion was in favour of the 'group' system. On the site in question this system had produced an excellent crop of clean stems with well formed crowns.

The party then moved to a somewhat similar area where oak constituted the hardwood crop constituent. Here the results were not so encouraging, but it was felt nevertheless that a satisfactory final crop of oak would in fact emerge in time.

Further discussions took place on various aspects of pure hardwood crops which were encountered on the itinerary. Many views were expressed as to the treatments to be adopted. Most views favoured a gradual conversion to two-storey mixed forest by the introduction of shade-bearing conifers under a heavily thinned hardwood over-storey.

The outing concluded with the usual "tea" and the party unan-  
imously expressed their appreciation to Mr. Campbell, Forester-in-  
Charge, for his efforts in making the outing a successful and most  
enjoyable function.

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L.C.