

Rotations and Regeneration Problems in Coniferous Plantations in Great Britain

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THE Supplement is a report on the Second Discussion Meeting arranged by the Society of Foresters of Great Britain, held in Edinburgh from the 4th to 6th January, 1962.

This publication contains a series of very informative articles on a range of very topical questions. In the first article, for example, a representative of the timber trade describes "the kind of timber the 'trade' would like the grower to produce" and "how the timber should be presented for sale and the felling coupes". Here we have an excellent piece of market analysis which should be a valuable guide to those concerned with marketing of standing timber and thinnings and also those responsible for silvicultural practice. "It often puzzles me," says the writer "why the requirements of silviculture should ever be so exacting as to make a sale obnoxious to the purchaser". Perhaps some of our own timber merchants have felt the same way.

In subsequent articles we get the economists' views and the silviculturists' views on problems affecting the thinning and regeneration of coniferous plantations.

There is a contribution by E. W. J. Phillips of the Forest Products Research Laboratory which considers the gross natural features which govern timber quality and also the effect of rate of growth on structure and quality.

W. E. S. Mutch, in an article on the economics of timber growing, discusses the revision that may come about in economic thinking with the change in national policy that has come with the abandonment of the need to create a strategic timber reserve.

There are articles dealing with the management and silvicultural problems of the approaching second rotation which according to G. B. Ryle, Director, Forestry Commission, England "is going to give us more troubles than we shall later have to face with the third and subsequent generations". Mr. Ryle thinks that we shall have to create our second crop under conditions which may be even more troublesome than those which existed when the first crop was established on bare land.

The use of working plans and the factors determining working plan areas are discussed, as well as such matters as rotation length and the pattern of future forests.

It is obvious to anyone reading the articles and discussions recorded in this supplement that the problems facing the future generation of foresters will be, if anything, more complex than those facing the present, and that it is not too early to be confronting these problems which were aptly characterised as those associated with the conversion of plantations into forests.