

Day Excursion to Newport Forest

12th July, 1964

ON Sunday, 12th July, the Society visited Ballyhourigan Property of Newport Forest which is under the charge of Mr. Cawley. We had a very good attendance including members from Northern Ireland.

This is the oldest property of this forest and contains crops in all development stages from recent plantings to mature timber. The discussions before tea centred around selection of species and was prompted by the change from Sitka spruce to Japanese larch on mineral soil. The influence of economics on species selection was discussed and it was pointed out that this forest was in the fortunate position of having markets for both saw timber and pulpwood at its doorstep.

The party then moved to the higher ground where different soil conditions and exposure were discussed.

After tea the party visited spruce stands in the thinning stages. Here we saw where the establishment of the Chipboard factory at Scarriff had influenced management in their handling of spruce crops at the thinning stages. Mr. Gibbons, who led the party, explained the present objects of management and how the Department now set about achieving these objects. From the particular, the discussion then extended to thinnings in general and this in turn led to the question of pruning and quality production. The excursion closed on a lively and animated debate on the question of the future uses of timber, for lumber, for plywood, chipboard and other reconstituted forms of wood for cellulose.

M.S.