

MR. T. DONOVAN

At the 24th Annual General Meeting, the Society had great pleasure in conferring on Mr. Timothy Donovan, honorary membership of the Society. He is the 6th honorary member and holds the distinction of being, with Mr. M. O'Beirne, the only Irishman, born and bred, to have been given this honour.

Born in Clonakilty, Co. Cork in 1882, it was not until 1906 that he entered the Forestry School at Avondale. He remained there for 3 years where he received his basic training in forestry which was to stand him in good stead during his long and active career.

His initial posting was to Camolin, Co. Wexford, one of the first state forests in Ireland. Following a short period there, he transferred to Ballykelly, Co. Derry, where he took over 200 acres of land which was to prove to be the nucleus of the North's afforestation programme. During his stay at Ballykelly, he received the princely sum of 3/6 for a 24 hour day, no allowance being given for accommodation as had been the case at Camolin. Other forests of which he had charge during the second decade of the 20th century were Augher, Co. Tyrone and Ballyhoura, Co. Cork. In 1920 he was appointed District Officer at Ballygar. In this period he advised on private planting in the West. An example of his judgment was the Sitka spruce planted at Ballinahinch, Co. Galway. These grew to a height of 110 ft. before being blown. Due to the unstable political situation in Ireland in the early 1920's the British Government abolished the post of District Officer for the West. Mr. O'Donovan was offered the post of forester-in-charge of Ballygar forest which he accepted. He remained there for 13 years and the present day forest is a symbol of his skill while in charge.

From forester-in-charge at Ballygar he moved, on appointment to District Inspector in 1934, to the post of Special Acquisition and Survey Officer in the Gaeltacht. While in this post he carried out the first inspection of Nephin Beg, now one of the largest forests in the West.

In 1942 along with 30 other men dedicated to the spread of the knowledge of forestry in all its aspects he founded the Society

of Irish Foresters. From this modest beginning the Society has expanded to a membership of 400 on the eve of its 25th anniversary. The Society owes much to those dedicated men who were far-sighted enough to found the Society. After 41 years he retired from active service in 1947. He now lives in retirement at Sutton, Co. Dublin.

The motion proposing Mr. Donovan was placed before the meeting by Mr. T. Moloney and seconded by Mr. D. McGlynn.
