

Notes and News

FOREST LAND VALUATION

The following is extracted from the speech of the Minister for Lands in the Dail on 5th March, 1969.

" . . . As I have already said, we have a new system of land valuation in use in the Forestry Department and this is a big breakthrough in our campaign to develop our forestry potential. For the first time we have succeeded in establishing a cost-benefit type analysis of each new area of land being included in the forest estate as the basis for optimum management policies. Each area being considered is now studied in relation to both its potential timber yield and the level of capital development cost likely to be involved, and a price is determined which recognises its fair value for forestry purposes. Under the new system the range of prices which we are prepared to offer is much wider than under the old £10 ceiling price system. Land of relatively low productive capacity will still command only a low price if it qualifies at all for purchase but, for good forest land, valuations now range frequently up to twice the old ceiling price and, in favourable circumstances where capital development costs are minimal it can go substantially higher.

Any man selling land now to the Forestry Division can expect a fair market price for any land which in the national interest, would be better used for forestry purposes than for agricultural purposes. To put it simply, price should no longer be an obstacle to land acquisition for forestry purposes."

CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK

The third forest park in Northern Ireland was opened by His Excellency the Governor on 31st March 1969. It is hoped that this park of over 1,000 acres in Castlewella Forest, Co. Derry, will relieve some of the pressure on Tollymore Forest Park which had about 180,000 visitors last year.

Among the attractions of the new park are Castlewella Lake of over 100 acres well stocked with trout (fishing permits will be available) a number of woodland walks and paths with a special trail for pony trekking, and picnic sites, viewpoints, etc. There is also the Arnesley Garden Arboretum.

There is a car park for about 700 cars (car, 2/6d. per car) and close to it is a cafe which will provide light refreshments.

FISHING IN FOREST LAKES

The Northern Ireland Ministry of Agriculture has embarked on a programme of fishery development, and as a start has opened three mountain lakes of 10, 35 and 47 acres at Lough Navar Forest,

Co. Fermanagh. The lakes are well stocked with brown and rainbow trout, with perch also available. Fishing is permitted only from the shores. Permits cost £1 per season, 10/- per week and 2/6d. per day. There is a bag limit of eight fish and a minimum takeable size of eight inches.

Other angling waters will be opened by the Ministry later in 1969.

I.U.F.R.O. WORLD CONGRESS 1971

The 15th Congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organisations will be held at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, in March 1971. The meetings will be preceded by a special tour of Florida and there will be six technical post-Congress tours, each of about one week's duration. About 700-800 forest research workers from upwards of 50 nations are expected to attend.

The Forestry Divisions in Dublin and Belfast were both represented at the 14th Congress which was held in Munich in September, 1967.

PORTGLENONE RECREATIONAL AREA AND FOREST NATURE RESERVE

Porglenone Forest, of just over 100 acres, and situated in Co. Antrim just east of the River Bann, was opened to the public as a recreational area and forest nature reserve on 9th May, 1969. A car park, woodland walks and picnic sites have been provided for visitors. The area includes a forest nature reserve managed by the Ministry of Agriculture in co-operation with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and a memorial grave in memory of Augustine Henry, Professor of Forestry in Dublin from 1913 to 1930 and joint author of *The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland*, who was born near Portglenone in 1857.

INSTITUTE OF WOOD SCIENCE

An Irish Branch of the Institute of Wood Science was inaugurated at a meeting in Dublin on 28th March, 1969. Chairman of the new branch is Mr. Leonard U. Gallagher, Timber Department, Institute for Industrial Research and Standards. Two papers were read: *Research and Education Related to Industry*, by Mr. W. E. Bruce, Chairman of the OECD Committee on Wood Preservation, and *Productivity in the Wood Using Industries*, by Mr. Desmond Cody, Institute for Industrial Research and Standards.

The aim of the Institute of Wood Science is to promote an awareness, through education, of the possibilities for the better use of timber. Membership is open, but there are several classes of members.