

Notes and News

Minister's Address

Opening the Forestry Exhibition at Glenealy on 5th September, the Minister for Lands, Mr. Sean Flanagan, T.D., in his first public engagement since his appointment, congratulated the *Society of Irish Foresters* for their enterprise in sponsoring the exhibition.

"It is fitting", he continued, "that this exhibition should be sited in Co. Wicklow, where State Forestry had its beginnings in 1904 with the acquisition of the old Parnell Estate at Avondale, and where progress has been such that as of now 54,000 acres are under plantations and woodlands in the country. This means, in fact, that over 10% of the land area of Co. Wicklow is already under forestry—this is by far the highest percentage of any county in Ireland".

Commenting on what had been achieved in the way of new plantations and modernised techniques, he warned that it was "essential that we should keep fully abreast of developments in other countries to ensure that we can maintain our competitive position as producers and processors of timber as well as manufacturers of timber products. It is in this context mainly that we must grasp at the opportunities which new machinery, new—and safe—chemicals, and new services and techniques have to offer".

Two New Deficiencies

For the first time in Ireland, both sulphur and zinc deficiencies have been shown by research workers in *An Foras Taluntais* (The Agricultural Institute) to limit crop production. Preliminary findings have been published in *Farm Research News* (July-August 1969). P. A. Gallagher describes zinc deficiency in onions on limed cutover peat at Lullymore, Co. Offaly, and P. K. Hanley records increases of 43 per cent and 26 per cent in grassland production following the application of 75 lb. per acre of elemental sulphur in two out of four sites in Co. Wexford.

Applications of zinc compounds are standard practice in the establishment of pine forests in parts of Australia, but sulphur deficiency has not so far been demonstrated in forest crops under field conditions.

Private Woodlands

Having recently completed an inventory of State-owned woodland, the Research Branch of the State Forest Service has now begun a survey of privately owned woodlands in order to complete the national picture. This census will cover all forest areas whose owners possess one hundred acres or more of woodland, not necessarily in one block. (A ten per cent sample of all other woodlands will be examined). The records of private woodlands in the Department will be used as a basis for this survey but these records are not exhaustive and the officer in charge of the work, Mr. L. P. O'Flanagan, would like to get in touch with anybody who owns a hundred acres or more of forest, or to hear of any such areas throughout the Republic which readers may know of. This is an important national venture, since accurate information on the timber resources of the country must be available for the planning of timber-using industries.

Forestry Courses

Full-time residential courses in preparation for the Woodman's certificate, Forester's Certificate and National Diploma in Forestry examinations are available at the Cumberland and Westmoreland College of Agriculture and Forestry, Newton Rigg, Penrith, Cumberland. There are also courses in Production, Utilization and Marketing, and a three-day refresher course for qualified foresters. Further information may be had from the Principal.