

Society Activities

Minutes of 27th Annual General Meeting

15th March, 1969, in Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin

The President, Professor Clear, declared the meeting open; and welcomed those present. The minutes of the 26th A.G.M. were taken as read. The Council's report for 1968 was read, then approved, having been proposed and seconded by Messrs. Mooney and Galvin. Arising from the report, a discussion followed on the facilities offered by The Royal Dublin Society. Use of the Library had not been included, and it was felt that storage space would cover current records only. It had been decided to avail of the basic facilities for the present. It was suggested that the number of complete sets of "Irish Forestry" be determined, and the possibility of binding these explored; also that Society records might be incorporated in the R.D.S. technical records.

Abstract of Accounts: The Treasurer presented the statement and assumed it had been seen by those present. There had been a general drop in income, despite an increase in membership, due mainly to fewer sales of "The Forests of Ireland". There was a substantial saving in Journal costs due to the Editor, although overall sales were slightly down. Expenses had been approximately the same, and there were no outstanding debts at the time of printing. Subscriptions for 1968 had been received from 371 members (93%).

In the discussion that followed, the position of the Book (*The Forests of Ireland*) was clarified. To date, 763 copies had been sold. On the question of some 70 copies, it was stated that about 50 had been sent out free, at the outset mainly, 10 to the Northern Region for sale, and a number recently sold not yet paid for. Profit from the Book so far amounted to £439 17s. od.—this included over £200 in donations, and the remainder was equal to the balance in the bank—the latter, therefore, being due to the Book. The stage could soon be reached when the remaining copies would be sold out. The question of publishing a second edition of the Book should be explored by the incoming Council, as should the recognition to Mr. H. M. FitzPatrick (approved at a previous meeting).

Mr. McEvoy congratulated the Treasurer on the presentation of the accounts, and proposed their adoption, seconded by Mr. Parkin.

Presentation of Certificates: Successful candidates in the Foresters Certificate examination were called on by the President to sign the roll book. Certificates were presented to Messrs. N. Kavanagh and T. J. McCarthy. Mr. F. Leahy, unable to attend, would receive his certificate at a later date.

The President then delivered his valedictory address. (See page 86.)

Results of the 1969 Council elections were confirmed as follows:—President: M. McNamara; Vice-President: M. Swan; Secretary: C. Kelly; Treasurer: T. Moloney; Editor: N. O'Carroll; Bus. Editor: J. Durand; Hon. Auditor: D. M. Craig; Councillors: Grade I: F. Mulloy; D. S. O'Sullivan; Grade II: W. B. Luddy; Associate: J. R. F. Hilliard; Northern Region Representative: J. E. Mackin.

Mr. M. McNamara took the Chair, and thanked the outgoing President for his work in guiding the Council in its various activities during his

term of office. He was happy that he would be acting from Cork, as this would extend further representation on the Council beyond the confines of Dublin.

The programme for 1969 was then discussed. The main item was the Annual Study Tour, to be held in Wales, in May, and a circular would be issued shortly. Mr. J. Prior was the Study Tour convenor, and an early Council meeting was necessary to select a Meetings convenor and organise the usual meetings programme. An indoor meeting had been arranged for the 29th March.

The machinery demonstration and field-day would take place at Glenealy on Saturday, 6th September, and arrangements were already being made.

It was felt that the meetings convenor should keep in contact with the Northern Region regarding meetings, and it was hoped that a tentative programme might be available for the next Council meeting. The Society had not been invited to the Northern Ireland Tree Felling Competition due to a misunderstanding. It was agreed that it would be invited this year, combining this with a Society outing. Details would be sent at a later date.

As this completed the business, the President thanked all present for their co-operation, and declared the meeting closed.

C. KELLY (Hon. Sec.).

Council Report for 1968

(Read at 27th Annual General Meeting, March 1969)

During this year, eight council meetings were held. Attendance was: Messrs. M. McNamara, T. Moloney, C. Kelly—(8); Prof. T. Clear and Messrs. M. Swan, J. Durand, D. McGuire, D. Mangan, J. Prior, Miss E. Furlong—(7); Messrs. D. O'Sullivan (6); B. Wilson (5); J. D'Arcy (1).

The Annual General Meeting was held in March; a paper on "The Principles and Practice of Forest Planning" was read by Mr. D. R. Johnston, B.A., Conservator, B.F.C. The Annual Study Tour to Donegal had been held in June, and 58 members had attended. Four day-meetings had been held, and two indoor meetings. A sub-committee had been set up in June to organise a Field Day or machinery exhibition. Arrangements are being made to hold this in September 1969 at Glenealy.

In the Society examinations, three were successful in the Forester's Certificate, and two in the Woodman's Certificate. The Secretary of the Central Forestry Examination Board had been contacted, seeking consideration of the Society for membership of the Board. This request was to have gone before the latter at a meeting in January 1969. Further word had not been received.

The Autumn 1968 number of the Journal was late being published, due to change of premises by the printers.

Arising from recommendations made by the Hon. Auditor, read at the 1968 A.G.M., annual subscriptions were raised by 10/-. Twenty new members had joined the Society during the year.

The amended constitution had been brought up to date, and is now being printed.

A scheme has been introduced by the Royal Dublin Society for the assistance of smaller scientific and agricultural societies. The Society has

opted for this scheme. Facilities provided include: the use of rooms for meetings, secretarial assistance, storage facilities, and a central postal address. The Society should greatly benefit from this arrangement. The next indoor meeting is to be held at the R.D.S. at the end of this month.

C. KELLY.

March 1969.

Public Business

An address entitled *Mission to West Irian* was given by Professor S. D. Richardson, M.A., B.Sc., D.Phil. (Oxon), Department of Forestry, University College of North Wales, Bangor.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. T. McEvoy, Inspector General, State Forest Service, and seconded by Dr. R. O'Connor, Economic and Social Research Institute.

Forestry Exhibition Glenealy, Co. Wicklow

Evidence of the developing importance of the forest industry was shown at the Forestry Exhibition which was organised by the Society at Glenealy, Co. Wicklow, recently. Held on Friday and Saturday, September 5th-6th on the State forest nursery, the exhibition had the active support of the Forestry Division, Dept. of Lands and of the Ministry of Agriculture of Northern Ireland, and was supported by the many industrial exhibitors. The Minister of Lands, Mr. Sean Flanagan T.D., kindly officiated at the opening and showed a lively interest in the exhibits.

Highlights of the show were the forest walk, devised by H. M. Fitzpatrick; the nursery display, arranged by L. Condon and D. O'Sullivan; the nursery walk, arranged by J. J. Deasy; the arboicultural display demonstrated by R. McNeill, J. P. Duane, and A. Thompson and the expert display of felling and snagging by Husqvarna demonstrators.

The weather being dry and warm was very suitable but it appears that even a free show like this does not serve to attract the general public in any great numbers without the advantage of Sunday opening. There can be little doubt but that the Society can readily organise such a display, either alone, or perhaps preferably, in co-operation with other bodies, with advantage to all concerned in the many aspects of the industry.

J. F. DURAND.

Portumna

The President and about forty members of the Society attended an outing at Portumna Forest on Sunday the 10th of August, 1969.

The theme of the meeting was *Forestry and Wildlife*. The main property of Portumna Forest covers 1,300 acres approximately and has an estimated population of between 100 and 120 Fallow Deer.

Mr. McGuinness, District Inspector, and Mr. Mulloy, Wildlife officer, Forestry Division, were leaders of an interesting and well planned walk.

Some fraying and browsing damage was pointed out and installations such as the Thetford High Seat, a raised stalag-like watch tower for the observation of deer and other animal movements and bird-watching were seen: we also saw an ingenious grey crow trap.

The meeting concluded with the usual picnic tea at which the President expressed thanks to Messrs. McGuinness, Mulloy, and Mr. Heverin, Forester in charge, for an interesting outing.

J. KEARNEY.