

## Reviews

### Readings in Forest Economics

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The aim of this publication is to give a picture, to as large a reading public as possible, of the kind of problems with which contemporary Nordic forest economists are occupied. The book is the brain child of the Nordic Forest Economic Seminar which is a rather informal group of forest economists from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. This group meets every second year and the idea to publish this book was brought up at a meeting of the Seminar. The different chapters have been written by members of the Seminar and the authors are very well known authorities in their special fields.

The contents are assembled under three headings — Forest Management, Marketing of Forest Products and Forest Economics at Large.

The first part, Forest Management, is devoted to the analysis of managerial economics. Short of giving a complete list of the papers and an abstract from each, it would be impossible to review adequately the range of topics covered. If one has to be selective, then it must be on the basis of personal preference or interest. It is of some interest to those concerned with the teaching of Forest Economics to find an article entitled Traditional Calculations for Economic Planning of Forest Management. This article by F. Jorgensen is aimed at demonstrating how the traditional type of calculations agree closely with general neo-classical economic theory. An attempt is made to illustrate how the problems of quantifying can be tackled to make the calculations of practical use. Indeed this question of quantifying runs through the whole section on management and many modern methods of economic analysis are introduced to the reader in this valuable section.

Under the heading Marketing of Forest Products, we are introduced to the different methods of marketing roundwood in the Scandinavian countries and Finland in a very interesting and readable article by V. Holopainen. Another article that must surely interest all those concerned with the outlook for the future of forest products is entitled "Plastics in Competition and Co-operation with Forest Products." In this most interesting paper Mr. L. Runeberg of the Finnish Forest Research Institute examines the extent to which (1) plastics have supplanted timber as a raw material and (2) plastics and timber form a stable symbiosis.

The vital question of the future is which seems to be growing faster — the proportion of competitive or co-operative plastic.

The most important changes forecasted are within the paper and paper board industry.

Production of wood plastic composite in particular can lead to the growth of a completely new branch of industry. According to a study carried out in Finland, the use of timber co-operative plastic is growing faster than the competitive plastic so that an integration between the plastics and forest industry appears expedient.

Under the Section heading Forest Economics at Large, there are papers dealing with Swedish Silvicultural Policy, Danish Forest Policy and Norwegian Forest Policy. There is a valuable article by P. Riihinen on Quantitative Aspects of Forest Policy Programs which includes a review on the Forest Policy of Britain. He states "the salient features of the economics followed in making decisions in British forestry stem from the current problems in the national economy and the fact that the main body in charge of afforestation is a Government agency."

The Impact of Social Change in Forestry is also dealt with in a number of valuable papers in this section which is by far the most interesting from the general readers point of view.

This whole exercise is one that foresters in these Islands might well emulate.

T. CLEAR