

IRISH FORESTRY

Volume 28

1971

Number 1

Editorial

The Society

One of the few pleasures of this office is the opportunity which the Editor has to express his personal opinions on this page (although under present circumstances there are fields in which he must be very circumspect indeed, and certain paths which he treads at his peril).

In former days when editorials were written it was common to centre them on the subject of the Society. The present editor hereby undertakes not (if he can avoid it) to raise the subject here again, but there are some feelings which must be expressed at least once.

As many members will know, the Society is in sight of financial trouble. Some of the reasons for this are specific but the situation is symptomatic of a general illness, which seems to take the form of apathy.

It is clear that most members are in the Society for what they can get from it, and quite rightly so: this is its purpose. But there are too many of the other class: those who have much to give, and choose not to, either by non-membership or non-participation. These people are generally too short-sighted to see their own ultimate gain from an active and successful Society.

We are all seekers, but we have too few prepared to give as well. (A Kennedy once made an interesting comment on this contrast of attitudes.)

And, of course, the main fault lies with those who have attained preferment, and who, for a variety of reasons, are content to enjoy the spoils without any thought for the less educated, the less successful, the less spiteful, the less selfish and the less aged.