

President's Address

PARTICULARS OF THE WORK OF THE IRISH FOREST SERVICES

supplied through the good offices of Mr. C. S. Kilpatrick, Northern Ireland Ministry of Agriculture and Mr. T. McEvoy, Department of Lands, Republic of Ireland.

Total Forest Land on Hands

Republic	660,000	acres
Northern Ireland	152,000	"

Productive area

R.	586,000	"
N.I.	126,000	"

Plantations

R.	531,000	"
N.I.	100,000	"

1970/71 Operations

Area acquired

R.	34,000	"	
	(29,000)	"	productive land
N.I.	2,745	"	

Area planted

R.	20,970	"	New planting
R.	1,413	"	Reforestation
N.I.	4,339	"	
	800	"	Private planting

Thinnings marked

R.	7,857	"	
	15,758	"	Programme for season
	6 million cubic feet		projected.

Sales

N.I.	11,000	tons	Round timber
	10,600	"	Fencing material & firewood
	800	"	Pulpwood & Pitwood
	10,800	"	Chipwood
Total	33,200	"	

Employment

R.		
N.I.	... 109	Foresters
		900 Workers

In Northern Ireland a White Paper on Forestry is under consideration. It doubles the target for Forest to 300,000 acres to be reached by annual plantings 5,000 to 6,000 acres. A total production

of 30,000 tons of sawable timber and stakes is guaranteed. It is proposed to reorganise the Forest Service and to plan a series of 5-year Plans. A "Rural Improvement Campaign" with a staff of foresters to carry out exceptional work has been set up and already has 15 foresters and 350 men engaged. They are employed on work planned for the period 1970-75 which includes clearing scrub on private land free of charge to assist planting under the Planting and Maintenance of Woodlands Scheme.

Glenarriff Lodge with 1,400 acres of land beside Parkmore Forest in the Glen of Antrim was acquired in 1970 and 50 men are employed turning it into a Forest Park. The Prime Minister, Major Chichester Clarke, opened Drum Manor Forest Park in Co. Tyrone during June 1970. Seven areas were set up as Forest Nature Reserves in the following Forests: Breen, Slievenamorra, Rostrevor, Bohill, Killeter, Castle Archdale, Marble Arch and four Areas of Scientific Interest viz. Ballintempo, Fathom Wood, Ballypatrick and Glenarriff Glen.

In the Republic a Forest Inventory covering crops planted in 1957 and later was completed. It covers 246,514 acres and forecasts production to the year 2009 when it is expected that output will be 90 million H.ft. Sitka spruce is the principal species, 26.4% by area and 33% by volume. Data has already been given to industry and the Inventory will be published later. Field Work is proceeding on the Inventory of Private Woodlands by ground mapping and aerial photographs.

Experiments have been carried out in line thinning in Sitka spruce, removing one third of the volume in the first thinning by taking out every third line or a pair of lines in six, to ease extraction by tractor and to reduce cost of brashing and marking.

The application of phosphatic fertilisers is now the general practice on poor soils and recent years have shown the need for potash also on certain soils especially midland swamp peats. The experimental plantations at Clonsast where a variety of species have been planted on cut-away bog are very promising.

Over 700 acres of native woodlands have been designated "Nature Reserves". They are Glengarriff, Uragh (Kenmare), Derryclare (Co. Galway), Pontoon (Co. Mayo), Glendalough and Glen of the Downs (Co. Wicklow) and Lough Gill (Co. Sligo).

There has been a significant break-through in the impregnation of Sitka spruce for transmission poles. The method is to soak the poles in ponds for several months to permit biological activity to render the wood penetrable by preservatives under pressure.

The Wildlife Branch of the Department has been incorporated into the Forestry Division in a combined Forest and Wildlife Service.

A number of "Nature Trails" were laid out in State Forests and have proved highly popular with the public.

In Northern Ireland research work started included investigation into the effect of different ploughing depths on the survival and growth of Sitka spruce on heavy clay soils and further work on fertilising with N. P & K on slow growing crops on peat, peaty gleys and surface water gleys. Spacing and thinning trials were continued by the addition of further replicates.

Provenance trials were extended by the inclusion of Douglas Fir. A pilot study was started to investigate the effect on tree crops of allowing cattle into a plantation.

A preliminary assessment was made of the relationship between soils, species, crop heights, growth, site, wind damage etc.

The Work Study Section continued method and time studies on a wide range of operations including timber extraction, planting, ploughing, stake production, fencing and chain saw snedding.