

Society Activities

Minutes of 29th Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting of the Society of Irish Foresters held at Science Room, R.D.S., Dublin, on Saturday, 13th March, at 6 p.m.

The President, Mr. H. M. FitzPatrick, opened the meeting, welcoming those present. The Secretary read the minutes of 28th Annual General Meeting. These were adopted and signed by the President.

The Council report was then read by the Secretary. Arising from the report Dr. W. Jack pointed out that due to the Postal strike in Northern Ireland he had received examination papers for Foresters Certificate for correction on that day, 13/3/'71. As the examination took place in January '71, the Society agreed to notify candidates of the cause of the delay in examination results.

The Treasurer, Mr. Moloney, having circulated the statement of accounts to those present, explained that due to the Bank strike he was unable to receive a statement from the Bank and have accounts audited in time for incorporation into the Annual General Meeting notice. The Treasurer then stated that the balance was much lower than for former years, which was due to 50% unpaid membership fees amounting to £372.00 and to the fact that postage and printing costs had greatly increased. To help surmount the problem of unpaid membership fees the Treasurer requested members to pay by Bankers Order in future.

It was suggested that economies might be effected by reducing the number of reprints printed with the Journal. On the question of which rate of annual subscription would apply now that only one grade of technical membership remains, it is expected that the Council would decide on the higher rate.

On the proposal of Dr. W. Jack, seconded by Dr. P. M. Joyce, the Council's report and abstract of accounts were adopted.

The President then delivered his address covering the progress of Forestry in different countries.

The President paid tribute to the members of the 1970 Council for the work carried out and time spent in the interests of the Society. The members of the 1971 Council were congratulated on confirmation of their election.

The legality of the Annual General Meeting was queried by some members who had not received 14 days' notice of the meeting due to the Post Office strike in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It was explained that mail for delivery to these destinations was not accepted by Post Office personnel in the Republic of Ireland. It was agreed to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting at which the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held on 13th March, '71, would be ratified.

The motion "that the revised Constitution and Rules of the Society be adopted" was proposed by the President on behalf of the Council of the Society. This was seconded by Mr. F. Mulloy and was adopted unanimously.

The meetings convenor gave details of the Annual Study Tour which would be held in Northern Ireland with the party based at Belleek, Co. Fermanagh. Indications were that many members were interested and would take part in the Study Tour.

A film show would be held at Shell/BP House, Hatch St., Dublin, in April '71. The films deal with Nature, Wildlife and Forestry and would include Mr. Patrick Carey's film "Oisín", which was commissioned for Conservation Year.

This concluded the business of the meeting and the President declared the meeting closed.

M. E. Cassidy

Council Report for 1970

The year under review proved an active and rewarding year for the members and Council of the Society of Irish Foresters. Nine Council meetings were held and attendances were as follows:—

Mr. FitzPatrick (9), Miss Furlong, Messrs. Moloney and Cassidy (8), Dr. Joyce and Messrs. Mulloy and O'Carroll (7), Messrs. Luddy, Macken and Prior (6), Dr. Durand and Mr. O Cinneide (5), Mr. O'Sullivan (4).

Conservation Year—In the Annals of the Society, 1970 will be remembered as Conservation Year due to its great influence on members' activities. The Society is justifiably proud of its contributions to Conservation Year, which varied from guided forest walks to indoor educational meetings open to the public. Thanks are due to the meetings sub-committee and the many participants for the success of these ventures.

Constitution—Another milestone in the Society's year was the redrafting of the Constitution and the drawing up of Rules for Regionalisation. For this the Society is much indebted to the President of the Society and Messrs. T. McEvoy and C. S. KilPatrick.

All members should by now have a copy of the Constitution and Rules of the Society.

Financial—The cost of running the Society is increasing yearly due to increasing overheads. Paid annual subscriptions for 1970 were much lower than for former years.

As the running of the Society is dependant on subscriptions, members are requested to forward annual subscriptions early each year and if convenient by bankers order.

Journals—During the year two Journals were published and the Autumn issue saw the innovation of colour illustrations. The extra technical processes involved resulted in a delay in publishing this issue.

Indexing of previous journals was carried out by Dr. Eileen McCracken and should be available in print shortly.

Meetings—The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 7th March, 1970, the Minutes of which were written up in the Autumn issue of the Journal. The much advertised Public Meeting at the Royal Dublin Society attracted a large attendance where Mr. W. Grant of Grizedale Forest Lake District, England, read a very interesting paper on "The Forester and Conservation in the 70's".

A full complement of indoor and outdoor educational meetings were held at approximately monthly intervals. Some of the lectures were repeated at different venues for the benefit of regional groups.

Study Tour—A very enjoyable study tour was held in the south-east of the country with headquarters at Wexford. Forty-six members participated and the subject matters were wide-ranging, varying from Conservation to Arboreta to Forest Management.

Examinations—Examinations continue to be held for Foresters and Woodmans Certificate. For the year 1969/'70 four candidates presented themselves for the Woodmans Certificate. All were successful.

For the year 1970/'71 there was one candidate for the National Diploma in Forestry. Four candidates presented themselves for the Foresters Certificate and two for the Woodmans Certificate.

Election—Elections to the Council for 1971 were confined for Northern members to elect a Northern Region Representative. All other members nominated for posts were returned unopposed. The post of Associate Councillor remains vacant as of those nominated none were prepared to accept the post. This suggests a lack of interest in members to serve on the Council. It is hoped that with the redrafting of the Constitution more members will contest elections in future years.

M. E. Cassidy,

Secretary.

22nd February, 1971.

Lecture on Arboreta

As the final part of its contribution to European Conservation Year, 1970, the Society arranged a lecture entitled *Irish Arboreta—Past, Present and Future*, by Mr. A. M. S. Hanan, Director of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Park and Arboretum, Co. Wexford. The lecture attracted an audience of some 600 people to the Members' Hall, Royal Dublin Society, Ball's Bridge, Dublin, on 21st November, 1970, and was repeated in Omagh on 1st May, 1971.

In listing the best of the Irish arboreta, Mr. Hanan, with the aid of slides, described the particular features of places like Fota, Co. Cork; Powerscourt, Kilmacurragh and Mount Usher in Co. Wicklow, and Mount Stewart and Castlewellan, Co. Down. He also pointed out our unique opportunity in the gardens of Cork and Kerry where a wealth of "semi-tropical" plants, seen elsewhere in these Islands only in greenhouses, can be grown.

Mr. Hanan pointed out the dangers of neglect or destruction and called for a more lively interest on the part of the public so that this heritage would not be destroyed or forgotten.

Lecture in Mallow

On March 4th, 1971, Mr. G. de Brit (Research Branch, Forest and Wildlife Service) delivered a lecture on "Managing Insect and Disease Problems in Forests".

Lecture on air pollution

The effects of air pollution on growth was the subject of a lecture given by Mr. Donal T. Flood, formerly Director of the Timber Division, Institute for Industrial Research and Standards.

Mr. Flood began with a history of air pollution, beginning with the London observations of the diarist John Evelyn in 1661. In 1904 the main effects of pollution, namely, covering of leaves, obscuring the sun, and injury by acids, were distinguished by Boyd, who also noted differences in susceptibility between species, and in particular between conifers and broadleaved trees. Recent research in controlled environments has shown that chemical effects are more harmful than physical, while the era of petroleum has increased the range and intensity of atmospheric contaminants.

Study of the notorious Los Angeles smog has shown the importance of light other than in photosynthesis. There is a complex system of photochemistry centred around a certain number of pollutants. Sulphur dioxide and sulphuric acid are generally the most important pollutants in damaging plant life, but some derivatives of oxides of nitrogen, whose reactions are not well known, can damage plants in concentrations so low as to require measurement in parts per 1,000,000,000.

Mr. Flood went on to discuss some specific Irish problems, and the international situation, and concluded that a compromise must be found between man's demand for industrial employment and his need to preserve trees and forests.

In proposing a vote of thanks, Fr. J. J. Moore, S.J. (Botany Department, University College, Dublin) congratulated Mr. Flood on the thoroughness of his research and the range of his survey.

The vote of thanks was seconded by Mr. Leonard Gallagher (Institute for Industrial Research and Standards), who called attention to the need for increased research into the hidden effects of pollution, e.g. reduction in growth without any visible symptoms of damage.

Mr. Flood's lecture was repeated in Limerick on 26th March, 1971.

N. O'Carroll