

Notes and News

NEW HEAD OF FOREST AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



Mr. A. W. (Billy) Duggan has succeeded the late Henry Gray as Assistant Secretary in charge of the Forest and Wildlife Service of the Department of Lands in Dublin. A native of Waterford, Mr. Duggan entered the Civil Service in 1937 and has been in Forestry since 1942. He became a member of the Society of Irish Foresters in 1955. All members will wish him well in his arduous task.

INTERNATIONAL SPACING AND THINNING EXPERIMENT

Resulting from a meeting of a Working Group of the International Union of Forest Research Organisations held in Freiburg in 1969 an international series of experiments was suggested to test the implications of mechanical harvesting of thinnings. Participating countries include Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany (the Federal Republic), Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland (both the Republic and Northern Ireland), Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Yugoslavia. To date 10 experiments have been established. The Irish experiments are at Granard and Lisnaskea. The work is being undertaken by research officers of the Dublin Forest and Wildlife Service and the Belfast Forestry Division.

CONSERVATION OFFICER

Mr. Bill Dallas has been appointed conservation manager by Tara Mines, the Irish subsidiary of a Canadian company, for its zinc/lead development near Navan, Co. Meath. Mr. Dallas, who qualified in Forestry in Dublin in 1954, was formerly employed by the Forestry Division of the Northern Ireland Ministry of Agriculture.

REVIEW REVIEWED

In the course of a review of Eileen McCracken's *The Irish Woods since Tudor times, Their distribution and exploitation*, in the Jesuit-run quarterly, *Studies*, Mr. T. McEvoy give some consideration to her estimate of 12% as the proportion of Ireland under forest in the seventeenth century, and suggests that it may be too high. He also highlights the importance of iron smelting as a destroyer of woodland; to produce one ton of iron required the equivalent of a year's growth on 20 acres of coppice oakwood. This important book has already been reviewed in *Irish Forestry* by Mr. C. S. Kilpatrick.

NOTABLE TREES AT CASTLEWELLAN

The following height measurements of outstanding trees in Castlewellan Arboretum in Co. Down have been supplied Mr. R. T. Sherwood, District Forest Officer in Newcastle. Heights are in metres, converted from feet.

Abies amabilis 27.3, *A. cephalonica* 27.1, *A. delavayi* 12.8, *A. delavayi faxoniana* 13.7, *A. fraseri* 9.8, *A. koreana* 8.2, *Arbutus menziesii* 14.3, *Athrotaxis laxifolia* 12.5, *Betula jacquemontii* 12.2, *Chamaecyparis obtusa* "Tetragona aurea" 8.2, *Cunninghamia konishii* 7.0, *Cupressus cashmeriana* 7.3, *C. lusitanica* "Glaucia Pendula" 14.9, *C. macrocarpa* "Aurea" 28.3, *Dacrydium franklinii* 7.6, *Eucalyptus perriniana* 17.7, *E. urnigera* 34.1, *Juniperus cedrus* 10.1, *J. wallichiana* 8.2, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* 8.5, *Nothofagus fusca* 18.0, *N. menziesii* 10.7, *Picea breweriana* 10.7, *P. orientalis* 24.7, *P. spinulosa* 25.0, *Pinus sylvestris* "Aurea" 14.3, *Podocarpus acutifolius* 6.1, *P. salignus* 15.2, *Pseudotsuga macrocarpa* 11.6, *Pseudowintera* (*Drimys*) *colorata* 3.0, *Sorbus rehderiana* 9.8, *Thujaopsis dolabrata* 19.5 & 14.9, *Torreya californica* 16.2, *Tsuga mertensiana* 16.2.

SLOGAN FOR FORESTERS

W. G. Burch in his President's Report (of 1970-1971) to the Canadian Institute of Forestry, suggests that foresters should regard themselves as "Statesmen of the environment—not simple fibre farmers." He points out the need, however, for foresters to continue to explain to the public what they are doing and why, so that the public may not ultimately fail to understand the compatibility of harvesting and conservation in both wildlife and forest management.

FORESTRY AT OXFORD

In the late spring of 1970 the Department of Forestry, University of Oxford issued a Note about the new Honour School of Agricultural and Forest Sciences. (See Irish Forestry, Vol. 27, No. 1 1970, p. 40). In this Note reference was made to the fourth year post-graduate course in the more special and technical aspects of forestry leading to the Diploma in Forestry and its relation to Land Management.

In keeping with the new policy of the University regarding diplomas this diploma has now been upgraded to a Master of Science degree *by special study*; this is still a taught course lasting three terms and includes a written study and an examination at the end.

At the same time the Bachelor of Science degree has been replaced by a Master of Science degree *by research* with a normal period of about six terms, but with a minimum of three terms.

Candidates for either M.Sc. must have obtained at least the equivalent of an upper second class in an honours degree at a university recognised by Oxford for Senior Status.

In special circumstances other candidates with considerable experience in certain special aspects of forestry, or a related subject, may be considered by the Board of the Faculty of Biological Sciences for admission "as otherwise suitably qualified" for either M.Sc. degree.

It is possible for the most promising candidates for the M.Sc. degrees to apply, at a later stage, through their colleges, to the Faculty Board for admission as Advanced Students (if suitably qualified) to submit these for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

The M.Sc. *by special study* is designed primarily for,

(a) candidates who have taken a good honours degree in Agricultural and Forest Sciences at Oxford and who wish to follow forestry as a career, and

(b) candidates who have taken a good honours degree in a pure or applied biological subject including forestry, or, in special cases, economics, and wish to continue their studies in forestry at a post-graduate level.

In addition, it is also intended for suitably qualified forest officers in service (usually from developing countries) who want a more advanced course in Policy and Planning, Forest Management and Utilization, and in applied biological sciences such as Genetics, Pathology and Ecology.

The course is pitched at a high academic level and requires a considerable amount of specialised reading and critical and con-

structive thought and writing; it is not meant merely for acquiring advanced factual knowledge.

Further details can be obtained from the Department of Forestry, South Parks Road, Oxford. Enquirers should give full particulars of their previous degrees and experiences, if any.

Formal application however must be made through the Oxford Admissions Office, 18, Banbury Road, Oxford.

REARING MALLARD

An account of a successful attempt to rear mallard has been sent to us by Mr. P. J. Morrissey, formerly of Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath. He purchased 93 eggs, and, after 28 days in an incubator 76 ducklings emerged. These were placed in a shed within an open pen. They had access to water and gravel and were fed chick crumbs for the first four weeks, then, for the next four they were given yellow meal and boiled potatoes together with an assortment of greens. A larger pen was then erected across a stream and they were placed in this at the seven week stage. From here on they ate all kinds of food and for the greater part were fed with offal from combine harvesters. Towards the beginning of September the flight feathers were all clipped off one wing of each bird, which kept them from flying out of the pen. This operation had to be repeated every six weeks. Any reader who would like to have further information on this project should get in touch with Mr. Morrissey who is at Mount Anglesby, Clogheen, Co. Tipperary.

A FORESTER'S SOIL?

The latest of the National Soil Survey's county series to be published is *Soils of Co. Kildare*, by M. J. Conry, R. F. Hammond and T. O'Shea. (An Foras Taluntais, Dublin. £1.50). Members will be interested to know that one of the new soil series recognised and mapped in that county is the *Kilpatrick series*, but may be disappointed to learn that it is named after a farm at Lullymore rather than after our illustrious Past-President. Appropriately enough, though, the series, which comprises podsolic gleys derived from glacial till composed mainly of limestone, is placed in soil suitability class B2, which is "suitable for Forestry."

IVY WHINES

Silly-season subjects are less common in the newspapers now than they were some years ago, but last summer our esteemed contemporary *The Irish Times* permitted the hoary old chestnut (if we may be allowed to mix our metaphors) of ivy on trees "of

every race and denomination" to be raised in its columns. It all started with a letter calling for an Ivy Destruction Crusade or even a Tree Solidarity Movement. This was supported by a thundering editorial calling for "some noted dendrologist or other expert" to "give the final, emphatic word." Unfortunately, he didn't. But letters began to appear. First the redoubtable Tom Nisbet threatening a counter campaign with the motto "Ivy is good for Yew." Then, in more sober vein, a forestry student, Geoffrey Michael, who pointed out the greater damage caused by honeysuckle and wild Clematis, and listed some points in defence of ivy. A final letter, on the other side, referred to "the Forestry Division, who should know their job" clearing the ivy off trees in their plantations as a routine task. This letter was right up to date in its call for an approach to the Minister for Lands to do something about this "arboreal pollution."

HONOURABLE MENTION

Not everyone craves mention in that other esteemed contemporary, *Private Eye*. A recent issue carried an article about a gunsmith who operated for some time in an Irish midland town. Various considerations would render it imprudent for us to go into the details, but at one stage the gunsmith is supposed to have been visited by "a senior police officer and an Irish Forestry Commission civil servant" (*sic*). The story is in the issue for 11 February 1972. (No. 265).

Obituary

HENRY J. GRAY
1918—1971



Henry Gray, Assistant Secretary in the Department of Lands with responsibility for the Forest and Wildlife Service, died suddenly on 19th November last in Portumna. He was on a tour of inspection with particular emphasis on multiple use of forest land, the integration of timber production with wildlife management, recreation and environmental improvement, a development with which his name will always be associated.