

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

KNOCKDRIN AND TULLYNALLY ESTATES. 25th JULY 1975

The party assembled at Knockdrin Estate near Mullingar. The President, Mr. McGlynn introduced members to the hosts. Mr. Prondzynski, son of the owner, Baron Prondzynski had arranged excellent transport facilities and conducted the members on a guided tour of the woodland area. Mr. Schmidt, the estate manager, Mr. L. O'Flanagan, Divisional Inspector, and Mr. J. Quinlivan, District Inspector, Forest and Wildlife Service commented on aspects of woodland management.

The estate comprises 206 ha grassland, 226 ha woodland and 93 ha, water, gardens and buildings. Of the woodland 37% is conifer, mainly Sitka and Norway spruce, 33% hardwood, mainly Oak and Ash and 30% is scrub. Stops included very high yielding Sitka and Norway spruce, Grand fir and Douglas fir. The Yield class of the Sitka ranged from 26 to 30. Discussions concerned thinning and spacing. The general consensus was that early systematic thinning should be practised and that future plantations might be established at 2.5 to 3.0m spacing.

At Tullyally, formerly known as Pakenham Hall, the owner Mr. Thomas Pakenham led the party. The estate, comprising 223 ha grassland 162 ha tillage, 172 ha woodland, and 50 ha bogs, gardens and buildings has belonged to the Pakenhams since the 17th century.

Of the woodland area 61% is conifer, mainly Sitka and Norway spruce and Scots pine, 35% hardwoods, mainly oak and beech and 4% scrub.

Stops included high yielding Norway and Sitka spruce stands. Also seen were Norway spruce stands of poor growth, associated probably with a marl layer near the soil surface, row thinning of Norway spruce and over-mature Scots pine and European larch.

Discussion centred on silvicultural treatments for the young spruces and how to deal with the old larch and Scots pine. With regard to the latter, pathogenic causes of death were discussed and Mr. De Brit demonstrated the Shigometer, an instrument which measures woodrot in standing trees.

G. J. GALLAGHER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1975

COUNCIL REPORT FOR 1974

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

During the year six Council meetings were held. Attendance was as follows:- Messrs. O. V. Mooney, F. Mulloy, J. Prior and J. Dillon: 6 meetings; Miss E. Furlong, Dr. N. O'Carroll, Messrs. D. McGlynn, M. O'Donovan and C. Tottenham, 5 meetings; Mr. E. Joyce, 4 meetings; Messrs. P. Savill and J. O'Driscoll, 3 meetings; Mr. M. Sharkey, 2 meetings; Messrs. J. Mackin and A. Duffy, 1 meeting; Dr. D. Dickson, Nil.

Mr. A. Duffy resigned during the year and Mr. J. O'Driscoll was co-opted to the vacancy.

SOCIETY MEETINGS:

Three indoor and three outdoor meetings were held during the year. The mid-week meeting in the Northern Region which was held in Lettercran and Kesh Forests was particularly well attended when up to 80

members attended. The Society are grateful to those who gave indoor talks and led outdoor meetings: Prof. F. Convery, Dr. J. Gardiner, Messrs. S. Caulfield, P. Hand, P. Savill, M. O'Donovan and M. Carey.

GUIDED FOREST WALKS:

Guided Forest Walks were held at thirty-three centres in September and while bad weather kept attendance low on the opening Saturday, between 4,500-5,000 people turned up on the following day. The Society appreciate the assistance given by Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin and Forestry Division, Belfast in the organisation of the Walks and is also grateful to those members who acted as Walk Leaders at the various centres.

ANNUAL STUDY TOUR:

The Annual Study Tour was held in May in the Castlebar District with headquarters in Westport. A summary of tour events is reported in Vol. 31 No. 2 of "Irish Forestry". Our thanks are due to Mr. T. de Gruineil, tour leader, and his staff who assisted with the organisation in conjunction with the Meetings Sub-committee.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The 32nd Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, 23rd March, 1974, at the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin, the minutes of which are available in "Irish Forestry", Vol. 31 No. 2. Dr. W. H. Jack delivered a very interesting paper entitled "The Changing Patterns in Forestry".

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS:

Two issues of "Irish Forestry" were published in 1974. A new and revised edition of 'Why Forests' was released in conjunction with the publicity drive for the Guided Forest Walks.

A special sub-committee was set up to investigate the possibility of producing a booklet-type publication on forestry in Ireland. The booklet is intended to have wide appeal.

An up-dated map showing the present forest estate in Ireland is being prepared with the co-operation of the two Forest Services.

The Society is indebted to Dr. Eileen McCracken who has completed an index to Vols. 26-30 of "Irish Forestry". This index will be published as soon as possible.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP:

The motion "that Mr. Duncan Craig be elected an honorary member of the Society" was unanimously carried at the meeting of 14th February, 1975, at the R.D.S.

NEW MEMBERS:

The Council is pleased to report that 31 new members were elected to the Society during the year.

EXAMINATIONS:

The two candidates who sat for the Preliminary Certificates (formerly Woodman's) were both successful. There were no applicants for the Forester's Certificate. The Council regrets the lack of interest shown by members in connection with both of these examinations.

ELECTIONS:

Three positions of Technical Councillor for the 1975-1977, period were filled by election.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The Society presently enjoys a membership in excess of 550 persons and has a satisfactory financial position. However, the Council regrets that attendances at meetings has been disappointingly low.

Signed: JAMES DILLON,
Hon. Secretary.

MINUTES OF THE 33rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,
SATURDAY, 23rd MARCH, 1975,
IN THE SHELBOURNE HOTEL, DUBLIN

Due to the unavoidable absence of the President, Mr. O. V. Mooney, the Vice-President, Mr. D. McGlynn opened the proceedings and welcomed those present. The attendance included Miss E. Furlong, Messrs F. Mulloy, D. Craig, D. Mangan, M. Sharkey, W. H. Jack, J. Durand, L. O'Flanagan, S. Galvin, C. B. Tottenham, T. McEvoy, M. Swan, M. Cassidy, J. O'Driscoll, P. M. Joyce, M. O'Brien, T. A. Barry and J. Dillon. Apologies were received from Prof. T. Clear and Messrs. J. Prior and N. O'Carroll.

Secretary's Business

The minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting having been published in *Irish Forestry*, Vol. 31 No. 2 were taken as read and were duly signed. The Council Report for 1974 was read to the Meeting and its approval was proposed by Mr. T. McEvoy and seconded by Mr. D. Mangan.

In the discussion that followed on the proposed forest 'Booklet', the meeting was told that enquiries had been made as regards cost of producing a 20,000 word publication. £400 was quoted for 2,000 copies but there was general feeling that this number might be inadequate. On the proposal of Mr. McEvoy and seconded by Dr. Jack, it was agreed that authority be given to spend not more than £1,500 on the booklet. The editing would be carried out by Dr. N. O'Carroll.

Forest Walks

Miss E. Furlong reported on the difficulty of finding volunteers to lead Forest Walks and she suggested the formation of a special sub-committee outside Council to assist with the organisation. The preparations which must go into these Walks places a heavy burden on the meetings committee and she asked if it was worth continuing on the same scale as in previous years. Mr. McEvoy felt, without interfering with Council business, that perhaps 8-10 walk centres might be adequate. The Vice-President suggested that this matter could be left until the first Council meeting when a decision could be taken. Mr. Mulloy stated that we owed thanks to the Forest and Wildlife Service for the clerical services provided for the distribution of literature.

Duncan Craig Presentation

In presenting a watch to our former Honorary Auditor, Mr. McGlynn said that the Society owed a great debt to Mr. Craig. He had been with

the Society since its inauguration and had attended to its financial affairs ever since.

Replying, Mr. Craig thanked the Society and felt that honorary membership in itself was quite sufficient. He said there were only seven honorary members before him but that he was now the first non-technical honorary member.

Abstract of Accounts

The Treasurer presented the financial statement for year ending 31st December, 1974. It was proposed by Mr. L. O'Flanagan and seconded by Mr. M. Swan. On the question of increases in membership subscriptions the Treasurer stated that no increases would be necessary for 1975 at least. The last increase was made in 1971.

Elections

The 1975 Council Elections were confirmed as follows: President, D. McGlynn; Vice-President, P. M. Joyce; Secretary, J. Dillon; Treasurer, F. Mulloy; Editor, N. O'Carroll; Business Editor, M. O'Brien; Hon. Auditor, W. H. Jack; Councillors Technical, Prof. T. Clear, J. Mackin, W. B. Luddy; Councillors Associate, C. B. Tottenham.

Any Other Business

Mr. Tottenham reported that the proposed Wealth Tax Bill 1975 should be viewed with anxiety by the Society. In his opinion it contained passages which, if not amended, would be detrimental to private forestry. He instanced one anomaly where bloodstock is exempt but no such exemption existed for a crop of standing trees. He urged the Society to make representation to the Minister for Lands on behalf of private forestry. On the point that if this proposed Bill was a real deterrent to private forestry interests, Dr. Jack felt it is the duty of the Society to speak out on the matter.

The Annual Study Tour 1975 was stated by Miss Furlong to have been fixed for Co. Clare on 10-12th June with headquarters at West County Hotel, Ennis.

On the question of mid-week meetings, she reported that three such outings are planned for the coming year. As the Sunday meetings in recent times have been poorly attended, these midweek outings offered members a worthwhile outing. Participation will be confined to members and both Forest Services have agreed to allow time off to their staffs, who are members of the Society, to attend.

As a mark of respect to deceased members, M. W. Breslin and Mr. F. Moorehead, a minute's silence was observed.

In closing the meeting Mr. McGlynn thanked the Council for their efforts in the past year and asked members to help the Society by their participation in future events.

FORESTRY WALKS 1975

As in every year since 1970, the guided forest walks, organised by the Society for the benefit of the general public, and led by members of the Society, were held on Sunday 14th September. The walks again proved very popular, with generally high numbers attending. The Avondale walk, which was also held on Saturday 13th, was attended by the President of the Republic of Ireland, Cearbhall O Dalaigh.

The following were the areas visited and the leaders :

- Abbeyleix Demesne, Co. Laois : S. R. Fyfer.
 Adare, Co. Limerick : E. Larkin, M. O'Donovan.
 Ards, Co. Donegal : D. Connolly.
 Avondale, Co. Wicklow : D. MacAree, P. MacOscair, P. O'Malley.
 Ballyhooley, Co. Cork : P. Verling.
 Ballygar, Co. Galway : J. Desmond, P. McArdle.
 Camolin, Co. Wexford : P. J. Cotter, G. Murphy, J. J. O'Reilly.
 Cappamore, Co. Limerick : D. Dinneen, P. White.
 Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath : J. Martin, P. J. Morrissey, M. Sheridan.
 Clonmel, Co. Tipperary : S. Gavigan, E. Ryan.
 Donadea, Co. Kildare : P. Crowe, E. Fitzpatrick.
 Dromore, Co. Clare : L. Cawley, P. J. O'Sullivan.
 Drumsna, Co. Leitrim : J. F. Duane, J. E. Ryan.
 Emo, Co. Laois : J. Prior.
 Farren, Co. Cork : D. McMahon, W. Shine.
 Forth Mountain, Co. Wexford : T. Enright, M. T. Ryan.
 Foxford, Co. Mayo : T. de Gruineil, D. Murphy.
 Galtee, Co. Limerick : J. Moloney.
 Killeshandra, Co. Cavan : B. Friel, F. Kelly.
 Glencree, Co. Wicklow : S. Hayes, A. Higgins.
 Glenealy, Co. Wicklow : H. M. FitzPatrick.
 Glen of Imaal, Co. Wicklow : T. Donohue, F. Fahy.
 Gort, Co. Galway : C. Hanley, J. Lillis.
 Granard, Co. Longford : L. Duffley, J. Quinlivan.
 Hazelwood, Co. Sligo : C. Crowley, T. Gallen, T. Hunt.
 John F. Kennedy Park, Co. Wexford : J. Durand, C. Kelly, B. T. O'Reilly.
 Killakee, Co. Dublin : J. Deasy, J. Fennessy, M. O'Brien.
 Kilfinane, Co. Limerick : L. O'Connor.
 Killorglin, Co. Kerry : J. Costello, D. Walsh.
 Knocktopher, Co. Kilkenny : P. Crowley, D. Hayes, G. McCarthy.
 Lisgoold, Co. Cork : M. McNamara.
 Lough Eske, Co. Donegal : A. Connolly.
 Lough Talt, Co. Sligo : M. Cassidy.
 Mullaghareirk, Co. Limerick : M. Doyle, J. O'Mahony.
 Portumna, Co. Galway : P. Keane, E. McGuinness.
 Randalstown, Co. Antrim : W. J. Crawford.
 Ravensdale, Co. Louth : T. J. McCarthy.
 Townley Hall, Co. Louth : J. A. McGinley.