

General Discussion

Chairman: T. McEvoy

Mr. Gallagher asked what was the reason for the high average yield class in Northern Ireland. In reply **Mr. Parkin** said that while a high proportion of plantations were on peat, there were some on clay soils giving very high productivity. **Mr. Wright** added that many of the younger stands on peat were growing at a fast rate, having not yet reached the stage when nutritional problems begin to arise. To a question from **Mr. Condon** concerning the best provenances for areas with a risk of Spring frost, **Mr. O'Driscoll** said that there seemed to be little variation in frost sensitivity *per se*, but it was hoped that the faster growing southern provenances would emerge earlier from the danger zone near the ground. **Mr. Bulfin** asked if fast grown crops were less prone to disease? **Mr. de Brit** in reply said that this depended on the organism involved. Generally plants growing in an optimum regime were more resistant to a wider range of organisms. In further discussion, **Mr. Dillon** observed that Sitka spruce was not basically a shallow rooting species. This impression is gained from observing wind blow trees in wet soils. Using a deep tunnel drain in peat rooting depth was more than twice that attained with orthodox ploughing. **Mr. O'Kelly** asked what were the consequences of planting on large ribbons and **Mr. Duane** suggested planting on top of the ribbon. In reply **Dr. Dickson** said that the young plant on top of the ribbon would be subject to exposure, and there might be difficulties about stability as the ribbon decayed. Some foresters had tried planting in a slot at the base of the ribbon. Stepping down the ribbon was regarded as too expensive. In a reply to a question from **Mr. Drea**, **Mr. Carey** said that experiments on complete ploughing in the Old Red Sandstone region had been disappointing. There followed a discussion on wood quality. **Mr. Glennon** inquired about the relationship between fertilization and quality. **Mr. Knaggs** said there was no direct evidence on this but very rapid growth produced a weaker timber, possibly of a lower grade. To a question from **Mr. Campbell**, **Mr. Knaggs** said that no more than about 10% of home grown Sitka spruce was below acceptable structural grades.

In his concluding remarks, the Chairman, **Mr. McEvoy**, pointed out that there was great scope for improving the efficiency of our forests in utilising solar energy by combining the efforts of various specialists. He referred to the value of pooling the information obtained in Northern Ireland and the Republic, and congratulated the Council of the Society and the organisers of the symposium.

Attendance List for Symposium

Antrim (9)

Dr. D. Dickson
J. E. K. Ellis
K. Hutchman
C. S. Kilpatrick
S. Milner
K. F. Parkin
J. M. Sanderson
P. Savill
W. T. Wilson

Cavan (5)

S. Carney
M. Friel
E. Johnson
M. Leonard
M. Walsh

Clare (4)

S. Carew
G. Tottenham
Mrs. J. Tottenham
R. Tottenham

Donegal (7)

C. J. Boyle
P. Doolan
J. Dufficy
N. Foley
J. J. Gatens
C. Jeffers
T. Mannion

Down (3)

P. J. McElroy
J. McEwan
W. McCloskey

Dublin (38)

T. Almack
I. Booth
G. de Brit
M. Bulfin
Professor T. Clear
P. Clinch
M. Collins
J. J. Deasy
J. Dillon
Dr. J. Dunleavy
Dr. E. P. Farrell
Miss L. Furlong
Dr. G. Gallagher
Dr. J. Gardiner

E. Hendrick

I. F. Products
Dr. P. Joyce
B. Lawler
J. J. Maher
D. Mangan
T. Moloney
O. V. Mooney
F. Moriarty
D. McAree
Dr. R. McCarthy
C. A. McCormack
T. McEvoy
D. McGlynn
M. MacSuirtain
M. O'Brien
Dr. N. O'Carroll
J. O'Driscoll
T. Purcell
F. Shekleton
M. Skehan
M. Swan
D. Sweetman
D. Ward

Fermanagh (3)

P. Carlin
M. J. Devine
C. I. Farmer
J. C. Phillips
W. J. Wright

Galway (6)

J. Cronin
J. Desmond
E. Lynagh
P. McArdle
E. McGuinness
M. O'Neachtain

Kerry (1)

J. Maguire

Kildare (3)

T. A. Barry
P. Crowe
J. D. Robinson

Kilkenny (4)

L. Condon
A. Finnerty
J. Healy
J. O'Riordan

Laois (2)

B. Collins
J. Prior

Limerick (3)

E. Larkin
M. O'Donovan
P. White

Longford (4)

L. Diffley
P. Glennon
C. Little
K. McLoughlin

Louth (2)

D. Brassil
T. J. McCarthy

Mayo (4)

M. Costello
A. O'Keeffe
P. O'Rourke
V. Ryan

Meath (2)

G. Harney
M. Cosgrave

Monaghan (3)

J. Finley
P. Fitzgerald
J. Fleming

Offaly (1)

M. Byrne

Roscommon (2)

J. Duane
J. McLoughlin

Sligo (2)

F. Drea
J. Freeman

Tyrone (3)

T. G. Archibald
J. Mackin
Maj. Gen. D. Moore

Waterford (2)

J. M. Doyle
N. Kavanagh