

Society Activities

COUNCIL REPORT 1983

Symposium

'The Role of Forestry in Land Use' was the theme of the 1983 Symposium held at Belfield on 15th April. Six papers were presented on the subject. The Symposium was as in previous years well attended.

Annual Study Tour

The Annual Study Tour was based in Arklow and visited areas in the south Wicklow and north Wexford region. A full account of what took place is in Irish Forestry Vol. 40, (2).

Meetings

A very successful field day was held in Co. Mayo on the future of Lodgepole pine. Unfortunately no evening meetings were held during the year but there are plans for at least two such meetings in 1984.

Guided Forest Walks

Walks were held at 22 centres on 11th September. Almost all leaders reported that attendances were higher than expected. The walks were organised this year through a Walks Committee, rather than a Walks Convenor.

The Society wishes to thank those who presented papers at the symposium, those who acted as Forest Walk Leaders, and those involved in Society committees. Thanks are also due to the Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin and the Northern Ireland Forest Service for their help during the year.

Annual General Meeting

The A.G.M. was held at University College, Belfield on 14th April. The Minutes were published in Irish Forestry Vol. 40 (1).

Publications

Irish Forestry Vol. 40 (1 & 2) was published.

Examinations

Five candidates sat the 1983 Forester's Certificate Examination. One candidate achieved an Honours Mark, two passed with Distinction, and two others passed.

Henry Memorial Plot (Avondale)

A committee was formed to ensure that the Plot is well maintained. A report on the Plot will henceforth be included in each Annual Council Report.

Elections

Four posts of Technical Councillors and one post of Associate Councillor for the period 1984-86 were filled by election. As there was only one candidate for each of the officer posts these were filled without election. The total poll in the 1983 election was 231.

Membership

Number of members at 31st December, 1983.

<i>Associate</i>	<i>Student</i>	<i>Technical</i>	<i>Total</i>
109	40	490	639
New members elected in 1983.			
9	5	15	29
Temporary lapsed members (now paid up to date).			
1	—	11	12

Five members died during the year. Three members resigned from the Society.

Attendance at Council Meetings

5 Council Meetings were held during the year. Attendance at Council Meetings was as follows:

N. O'Carroll, E. Griffin, P. Raftery, J. O'Driscoll, J. Prior	5 meetings.
J. Gardiner	4 meetings.
M. O'Brien, J. Fennessy, C. Farmer, E. Hendrick, E. P. Farrell, L. Furlong	3 meetings.
P. Crowe, L. Quinn, P. Glennon	0 meetings.

Signed: E. GRIFFIN,
Hon. Secretary.

March, 1984

MINUTES OF THE 42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY, 5th APRIL, 1984 IN THE
AGRICULTURAL BUILDING, U.C.D., BELFIELD.

In the Chair: Dr. N. O'Carroll, *President.*

Present: J. Fennessy, J. O'Driscoll, R. Keogh, M. Carey, B. Lacey, B. Murphy, B. Fitzsimons, G. Murphy, C. Boyle, M. MacSiurtain, T. Clear, O. V. Mooney, P. M. Joyce, L. O'Reilly, M. O'Brien, P. MacDonnell, P. Raftery, E. Griffin, L. Furlong.

Apologies: H. M. Fitzpatrick, S. McBride.

The President, opening the meeting, sadly recalled the recent death of Mr. T. McEvoy, who was a regular attender and contributor to the Society's Annual General Meetings.

Secretary's Business

The minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting, having already been circulated to members, were agreed and signed by the President.

Matters Arising from Minutes

It has been decided by the Council that the fund set up by the late Mr. T. McEvoy to aid in the advancement of young foresters be called "Society of Irish Foresters Educational Awards Fund". It has also been decided that the prize will consist of £100 worth of forestry books. In the current year two of these prizes will be given — one to the student attaining the highest honours standard in the 2nd year University

Examination and the other to the student who achieves the highest mark in the Kinnity Final Examinations. Both the Dèpt. of Forestry at U.C.D. and the FWS have agreed to this proposal. The fund will be used up relatively soon, but it is hoped that other individuals or groups might contribute to its continuance in the future.

The President then raised the question of the dissatisfaction felt by members at the fact that the Press were not invited to attend Symposia. He felt that the purpose of the Symposium was to educate Society members on forestry matters, and the members in turn could educate the public on same. He stated that the forthcoming publication of the revised 'Forests of Ireland' would provide sound technical facts about forestry in Ireland to the general public. He stated that the Press had a habit of distorting the facts.

A question as to whether the Society was going to reply to the many letters being printed in the papers, most of which were derogatory towards the forestry profession. The President stated that no one member could speak on behalf of the Society as a whole, as there were differing views throughout the membership — he felt that the Society would be wiser to avoid controversial issues being raised in the Press. One of the members said he thought that if controversy did arise from time to time within the Society, it would be a healthier thing for the Society.

The Council's Report for 1983, having already been circulated to members, was proposed for adoption by P. M. Joyce and seconded by Ml. Carey.

C. Boyle said that he had heard complaints from a number of people about the reduction in the number of walks which took place in 1983. However, it was explained that the organisation of the walks was a very laborious task and that there had been a conscious decision made to concentrate the walks near areas of large population.

M. Carey raised the question of the lack of attendance by some Council members at the Council Meetings held during the year. However, it was stated that there was no particular pressure that could be put on such members; the only way to solve the problem was by not voting for such members at election time.

Treasurer's Business

Mr. P. Raftery stated that the Society funds were up by £3,300 at the close of 1983. It had been decided, therefore, not to impose an increase in subscriptions charges. The contents of the Journal have been increased again, and it is likely that the next number of Journals will be of a similar size. Adoption of the 1983 Abstract of Accounts was proposed by T. Clear and seconded by O. V. Mooney.

Presentation of Certificate

The President was pleased to present the Foresters Certificate to Mr. L. O'Reilly.

Confirmation of Elections

The Meeting confirmed the 1983 Council Election as follows: President, N. O'Carroll; Vice-President, M. O'Brien; Hon. Secretary, E. Griffin; Hon. Treasurer, P. Raftery; Editor, J. J. Gardiner; Business Editor, J. Fennessy; Hon. Auditor, W. H. Jack; Technical Councillors, E. P. Farrell, E. Morrissey, J. Prior, D. Ward; Associate Councillor, L. Furlong.

The President thanked the outgoing Council for their work during the year.

Election of Honorary Members

The following people were put forward by Council to be elected as Hon. Members: Prof. T. Clear, Mr. H. M. Fitzpatrick, Mr. S. McBride, Mr. O. V. Mooney.

The motion was duly accepted.

The following are the citations which were read at the Meeting:

Thomas Clear carried alone for many years the burden of the professional education of foresters at University level in Ireland. As Professor of Forestry at U.C.D. he directed the development of a school of forestry whose graduates have found employment throughout the world. He was responsible for the prompt introduction of modern quantitative silvicultural techniques and for the implementation of economically effective management techniques in private forestry. He was Honorary Secretary of this Society from 1943-1960 and also held the office of Treasurer for most of that time.

Maurice Fitzpatrick is remarkable for his long and devoted service as a private individual to the promotion of forestry in Ireland. He compiled a botanical key to the identification of conifers, published in 1929, which became a standard reference work in both Ireland and Great Britain. He edited and supervised the production of the first edition of *The Forests of Ireland* and has, over many years, contributed to the advancement of forestry as a consultant and by his countrywide lecturing and writing.

Sean MacBride has devoted life-long efforts to the promotion of forestry. Specifically, he was personally responsible, as a Minister in the 1948-1951 Inter-Party Government, for the adoption and implementation of the policy which set an afforestation target of 10,000 hectares per year.

Owen Mooney first made his mark as a skilled silviculturalist. He presided over the initiation and development of the Republic's forest research organisation and was acknowledged as a source of encouragement and firm support by that developing service. In the course of his official attendances at meetings abroad he became widely known and accepted as an international ambassador for Irish Forestry.

Both Professor Clear and Mr. Mooney expressed their gratitude to the Society on bestowing such a great honour on them.

Appointment of Trustees

The following members were put forward to be Trustees of the Society: Prof. T. Clear, Mr. O. V. Mooney, Mr. H. Sullivan.

The motion was duly accepted.

Any Other Business

The President stated that the revised book on the Forests of Ireland will be published after Easter at a cost of approx. £5 for the paperback, or £12 for the hardback. A discount will be given to each member who wishes to purchase the book. Once the publisher has cleared his initial costs, a royalty per copy will be paid to the Society.

M. L. Carey asked that the decentralisation of the Society Meetings should be considered by Council.

One member said that the last number of Journals contained too many specialised technical articles; many members were, therefore, becoming disillusioned with the Journal. A discussion followed, and it was put forward that an Editorial Board to vet articles might be set up. It was stated the main problem arising was the very few articles that were being submitted to the Editor. One member suggested that articles on world forestry should be included. It was agreed that the incoming Council would consider the present situation.

Professor Clear requested that it might be worthwhile to revive the practice whereby the President would review the year's events in forestry at each A.G.M., as some members, especially through retirement, were a little out of touch with forestry matters.

M. MacSiurtain put forward the following proposals that the Society should:

- (a) assume a leading role in the formulation of a National Forest Policy.
- (b) act as the voice of foresters in Ireland by preparing statements for release to the media which counteract the adverse criticism to which the forest sector is quite often subjected,
- (c) address the serious unemployment problem among foresters and graduates, and
- (d) provide the opportunity to foresters in other parts of the country to organise and host the Symposium.

It was agreed that the proposals should be submitted to the Secretary and would subsequently be discussed by Council.

J. Fennessy proposed that a guest speaker be invited to speak after or during the A.G.M., this might increase attendances. It was also stated that this could take place during the day of the Symposium. The President said that Council would consider ways of increasing the attendances.

R. M. Keogh said that in view of the mountains of agricultural produce in intervention in the E.E.C., and the severe shortfall in timber supplies, that the Society should push afforestation in the media, at meetings, etc.

The Meeting finished at 10.00 p.m.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Forestry Commission

Forest Record 125. Rabbits.
A. M. Tittensor and H. G. Lloyd. £1.75.

Leaflet 83. Coppice.
R. E. Crowther and J. Evans. £1.75.

Arboricultural Leaflet 2. Honey Fungus.
B. J. W. Greig and H. G. Strouts. £1.80.

Packard Publishing Ltd.

Economics of Woodland Management.
D. R. Helliwell. £6 hardback; £3 paperback.

Options in Forestry.
D. R. Helliwell. £4.50.