

Dear Sir,

Among the assortment of books in a rural hotel in west Connaught is a copy of *Thom's Official Directory 1920*. Idle browsing discovered the following entry (page 1057) among a list of Principal Irish Societies and Institutions:

Irish Forestry Society (1902)

President – Marquess of Headfort

Hon. Secretary – J. Scott Kerr, Cloneen, Tubber, county Clare.

Secretary – E. Knowldin, F.R.H.S., 5 Molesworth-street, Dublin.

Hon. Treasurer – O.H. Bradell, L.S.O., Lower Bullingate, co. Wicklow.

Objects. – (a) The advancement in Ireland of Scientific and Practical Forestry in all its branches; (b) the dissemination of a knowledge of such branches of Science and Arts as are connected with Forestry; and (c) the diffusion of information as to the benefits to be derived by the nation (collectively and individually) by the Science of Arboriculture properly understood and applied.

The Society gave evidence to the 1907 Departmental Committee on Irish Forestry, as recorded in the Minutes of Evidence and Appendices subsequently published.

I suggest that the Society deserves further research to elucidate its initiation, its activities and achievements, its demise and a list of its more eminent members. Perhaps one

of our academic bodies might consider recognising the results of such research.

Further browsing in the Directory leads us to a “List of the Nobility, Gentry, Merchants and Traders” in Dublin, which includes: “Henry, Augustine, 5 Sandford terrace, Sandford road, Ranelagh”, but no A.C. Forbes. However, in “Officers of Government and Public Departments etc.” we find “Forbes, Capt. A.C., Chief Forestry Inspector, Dept. of Agriculture.” Perhaps the distinction reflects the perceived social difference between an academic and a civil servant. But whence the captaincy?

Yours sincerely,

Niall OCarroll,  
Ballynakillew,  
Ballinrobe,  
Co. Mayo.

*(Editor's note: Letters to the Editor on all aspects of forestry, both current and historical, will be welcomed for publication in future issues of Irish Forestry.)*