NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF FORESTERS

OFFICERS 1956-58

President: A. L. Poole.
Vice-President: D. Kennedy.
Treasurer: A. C. Forbes.
Secretary: J. F. Lysaght.
Journal Editor: A. P. Thomson.
Journal Manager: E. A. Cooney.
Public Relations Officer: M. J. Conway.
Librarian: G. C. Weston.

ANNUAL MEETING

The twenty-ninth annual meeting was held at Hanmer Springs on 28 April 1956, being formally declared open by Mr. Gillespie, M.P. for Hurunui.

Mr. F. E. Hutchinson presided over an attendance of 59 members and 18 visitors. It is pleasing to record that ten members brought their wives along too.

Obituary:
Suitable reference was made to the deaths during the year of Member N. J. Dolamore and Associate Member A. W. Wastney.

Annual Report:
The Secretary reported a membership of 208, made up of 11 honorary members, 59 members, 107 associate members, and 31 student members. The thirteen admissions during the year were almost balanced by two deaths and nine resignations. There were only three advancements during the year; student and associate members who are qualified for advancement to a higher grade are earnestly recommended to make the necessary application.

Election of Officers:
The President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Council (as shown above) were elected by postal ballot. The Editor, Librarian, and Public Relations officer were reappointed at the annual meeting.

Treasurer's Report:
The Balance Sheet, presented on behalf of the treasurer, who was absent through sickness, disclosed bank balances of some £750 and an excess of income over expenditure for the year of £167.

Librarian's Report:
Mr. G. C. Weston reported an increase in the number of publications being added to the library as well as in the number of members making use of the Institute library.

Editor's Report:
This was presented by Mr. A. P. Thomson. It was decided that membership lists be included in future issues of the journal and that a further drive for subscribers be made. Mr. E. A. Cooney was appointed Business Manager.
Presentations:
The Schlich Medal was presented to Mr. G. J. Molloy by the President on behalf of the Australian School of Forestry. Certificates were presented to members Strong and Weston and to associate members Bassett, Brown, and Pawson.

Schlich Prize:
The Forest Service's conditions for the award of a New Zealand Schlich Prize were approved and Mr. F. E. Hutchinson was appointed Institute representative on the awarding committee.

MacRae Memorial:
Further funds amounting to £14 11s. 6d. were raised by collection. The Rotorua section will proceed with the erection of a stone and plaque; the wording for the inscription is to be prepared by Mr. Kennedy.

Amendments to the Constitution:
Certain amendments were submitted to the meeting by the council and passed. The effect of these was to detail the method of selection of honorary members, to oblige student members to advance to a higher grade of membership within a year of obtaining their forestry degree, to open student membership to those attending schools of forestry other than the University of New Zealand, and to appoint the Editor of the journal and the Public Relations Officer ex-officio members of the council.

A motion by Mr. Hocking, making it obligatory for proposer to secure written acceptance of nomination from candidates for office, was defeated as being not in accord with the postal ballot system.

Future Annual General Meetings:
New Zealand Forest Products' invitation to sponsor the 1957 Annual General Meeting was accepted. The meeting will be held at Taupo and the subject for discussion will be "The integration of forest industries, and related forest management problems."

Mr. Hocking suggested that the 1958 meeting be held at Napier and that the subject be "The establishment of exotic forests."

Presidential Address:
Mr. F. E. Hutchinson delivered a presidential address, the text of which is published in this issue of the Journal.

Papers Presented:
The subject for the meeting was "High Country Protection Forests" and papers were presented by Messrs. Holloway, Elder, Thomson, Logan, MacArthur and Williams, Wendelken, Dick, Cleland, Chavasse and Naylor. Following discussion a motion was adopted to the effect that the incoming council be instructed to take action in terms of the Soil Conservation Committee's recommendations, co-opting Mr. Hutchinson if necessary.

Field Trips:
Visits of inspection were made to the Waimakariri Catchment on 27 April, to the Waiau Catchment and Maruia beech forests on the 29th, and to Hanmer and Balmoral State Forests on the 30th.

Thanks:
Mr. A. L. Poole, the incoming President, expressed the Institute's gratitude to the local forest staffs for the organisation of the meeting, to the North Canterbury Catchment Board for assistance with transport, and to the Soil Conservation Council and Catchment Boards for allowing the attendance of soil conservation staff.
ROTORUA SECTION

With 70 members, interesting and varied programmes at meetings, and a good field day, the Rotorua Section had a good year.

At the Annual Meeting held on 12 May, Mr. A. N. Sexton was elected Chairman, Mr. J. M. Harris Secretary, and Messrs. D. D. Dun, J. Church, J. Harrison-Smith, H. V. Hinds, and M. H. D. McKee were elected to the Programme Committee.

Addresses given during the year were:
“Utilisation of Sirex killed timber” by Mr. J. Harrison-Smith.
“The Role of the Soil Scientist in World Food Production” by Dr. E. W. Russell of Oxford University.
“Problem Forests of the Nelson Province” by Mr. R. Naylor.
“Pulp and Paper” by Mr. D. L. Stacey.

The annual field day on 17 September was held at Te Whaiti. Messrs. Ure and Cameron acted as guides to the party. The superb stands of podocarps, logging techniques, interplanting, and reservation of groups of seed trees captured the interest of all present and made a very impressive day.

The Rotorua Section continues to expand in size and breadth of interest. The concentration of forest industry in the district and the enthusiasm of members can build the Branch up into quite a large organisation.

REPORT OF FOREST SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

1. The Committee assumes that the term is intended to cover forest and other vegetation reserves where the prime intention is maintenance of the vegetation in strictly primitive condition for purposes of scientific study.

2. A strong case could be advanced for the setting apart of such sanctuaries particularly in so far as they would provide a starting point from which to measure departures from the primitive in other forests, e.g., measures of the true effect of various introduced mammals, etc., on the forests.

3. Forest types worth preservation in this manner can readily be listed (from National Forest Survey data and type maps); and details can as readily be given for all forest types not already under legal protection within Scenic Reserves, National Parks, etc.

4. BUT:
(a) For the greater part the forests are no longer in a strictly primitive condition. Few forest types can today be found that have not already been profoundly altered through introduction of exotic animals; and further modifications are in train in chain reaction fashion. In rare cases only, e.g., on a few off-shore islands or in certain precipitous fiordland forests, do indisputably primitive conditions still obtain. Would preservation of fragments of altered forest serve any really useful purpose?

(b) Furthermore, in all cases, the continued maintenance of the status quo, unmodified or but slightly altered, must prove inordinately costly or even impossible. To preserve intact select areas of key forest types implies their complete protection against all exotic animals, mammals, birds, insects; and protection against invasion by exotic plants. It means fencing of stands of sufficient extent to guard against all edge effects. It means complete elimination of all exotic organisms. It means re-establishment of the primitive avifauna. It means, in effect, substantial annual expenditures into an
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indefinite future for each and every portion of forest selected for preservation. And in many cases these expenditures must go for nothing since chain reactions already under way must frequently prove irreversible.

5. The prime consideration must therefore be, not is creation of sanctuaries of this type desirable, but is it practicable at reasonable cost. How much money can be spent, year in year out? If the money is unlikely to be forthcoming further pursuit of the matter could only be a waste of time. In a nutshell:
(a) How much money can be spent in preservation against countless odds of natural history museum pieces and,
(b) How much money should the present generation of taxpayers expend to make the job of future generations of forest ecologists easier?

6. Our view is that available resources can better be expended in other directions. In a few particular cases, e.g., with respect to the as yet unmodified forests of the off-shore islands already mentioned, where continued preservation of primitive conditions may be possible at reasonable cost, continued effort in preservation is to be recommended. This Institute could well play a leading role in this. But otherwise the Institute should not let itself be led into pursuit of impossible objectives no matter how desirable they may seem, in theory, to be.

For the mainland forests as a whole, continued change must be accepted as inevitable. Substantial areas of forest must be maintained in a condition as near primitive as possible since this will generally be the cheapest method of maintaining watershed protection, scenic, and other forest values; but these forests will not be "primitive" forests no matter how "natural" they may appear.

7. If further action is to be taken in the matter, we would suggest:
(a) Preparation of a full descriptive list of forest cover types.
(b) Detailed description of those cover types likely to be eliminated (i.e., preserve them in written record even though preservation on the ground is impracticable).
(c) More vigorous action with respect to maintenance of primitive conditions for those few forests where this does appear practicable.
(d) More thorough study of changes in train and to come in the indigenous forests as a whole (i.e., though we cannot hand on primitive forests to future foresters let us at least be able to hand on a record of stage of modification).

Obviously this programme is beyond the ability of the Institute to carry out. The Council may consider it desirable to submit the findings to the Forest Service for information, and if that body is in sympathy with the recommendations made, as a basis for possible action.

8. The Committee further considers that if any attempts are to be made to preserve forest communities, particularly if the type mentioned in (c) above, the attempts are most likely to be successful if administration is under Sections 20 and 26 of the Forest Act.

9. The Committee finally recommends that the Institute should consider joining the International Union for the Protection of Nature. In making this recommendation it has in mind the desirability of expressing a point of view which is different from that commonly held by native preservation societies.