OBITUARY

HERMAN HAUPT CHAPMAN (1874-1963)

H. H. Chapman died at New Haven, Connecticut, on July 13, 1963. He had been Harriman Professor of Forest Management at Yale University from 1911 until his retirement in 1943, and an Honorary Member of the N.Z. Institute of Foresters since 1939.

Chapman was well known to older foresters for his *Forest Valuation, Forest Mensuration, Forest Finance* and *Forest Management*, texts which he kept up to date by issuing revised editions in collaboration with younger associates. In 1934-35 he undertook a study of forestry education in the United States for the Society of American Foresters and the resulting *Professional Forestry Schools Report* led to the Society's accrediting system, which has done so much to maintain a high standard in approved forestry schools.

But Chapman was much more than a distinguished teacher, and took a prominent part in many fields of forestry endeavour, particularly in the affairs of the Society of American Foresters. He was president of the Society from 1934 to 1937 and his leadership in this critical time of growth and stress was outstanding, and exerted an influence far beyond the American scene. The depression had brought far-reaching social and economic changes to forestry along with other aspects of American life: professional standards were menaced by increased political pressure in the early years of the New Deal. Chapman was ever in the forefront of the battle, fearlessly attacking any attempts, regardless of their source, to subvert the integrity of the forestry profession, and denouncing any scheme which transgressed sound principles of silviculture and management.

The depression years dealt harshly with the younger generation of New Zealand foresters: the School of Forestry closed and some of its graduates were forced to abandon their chosen calling. At the time our own Institute was a small and weakly body, exerting little influence to champion the cause of forestry or to further the interests of foresters. To many of us at this time Chapman and his forthright writings in the *Journal of Forestry* were a beacon of inspiration and encouragement.

In recognition of his leadership of the profession, Chapman was offered and accepted honorary membership of the N.Z. Institute of Foresters in 1939. Ten years later, the Institute assisted in bringing him to New Zealand to chair the Forestry Section of the Seventh Pacific Science Congress. This provided the unexpected opportunity of meeting one we had admired from afar, of spending a quiet day with him in the field and gaining a better appreciation of his breadth of interest, his humility and friendliness. He was touched to be told the reason why he had been honoured by a small society on the other side of the world.

G.H.H.