OBITUARY

JAMES DEANS (1887-1963)

It is with deep regret that we record that James Deans of Homebush, an Honorary Member of the Institute since 1955, died on September 2, 1963, at the age of 76.

A farmer with a lifelong interest in horticulture and forestry, James Deans made Homebush one of Canterbury's show places, renowned for its trees and shrubs, and equally well known for its hospitality towards the many who came to admire and enjoy this felicitous commingling of farming and forestry.

For his long service to the community as a member of several local authorities in Canterbury, he was made a C.B.E. in the Honours List of June, 1963. In 1947 he was appointed to the Selwyn Plantation Board and was chairman over the period 1957–61.

Older members of the Institute who passed through the Canterbury School of Forestry in the 1920's and 1930's will recall their early field training at Homebush and the many kindnesses received at the hands of the Deans family. James Deans' work for forestry in Canterbury will endure long after him, as will his memory in the hearts and minds of all those with whom he came in contact.

FRANCIS WILLIAM FOSTER (1893-1963)

Francis William Foster died suddenly at his home in Melling, Hutt City, on October 27, 1963, at the age of 70. The members of this Institute extend their sincere sympathy to his wife, daughter, and two sons. With his passing, forestry and this Institute have lost a staunch supporter and friend. An inaugural member, secretary 1928–30, vice-president 1931–32, president 1932–33, a councillor from 1934–37, and elected an honorary member in 1951, he took his full part in the life of the Institute.

Foster was born on March 6, 1893. His scholastic record was a bright one. He matriculated and gained a junior scholarship in 1909, a senior scholarship in 1911. In 1914, when he had passed the first section for his B.A. degree, his studies were interrupted by World War I. (The degree was conferred in 1920.) After serving with the Expeditionary Force from 1914 to 1919, Foster attended the Edinburgh School of Forestry from 1919 to 1922 under a N.Z.E.F. scholarship. The other recipients of World War I forestry scholarships were C. M. Smith and R. B. Steele and all graduated B.Sc. For. in 1922, the first of a long succession of N.Z. students to graduate in forestry from that university.

Foster had joined the Customs Department in Christchurch as a cadet in 1909, was transferred to Wellington in 1912, and remained on the staff of that department until his return from overseas in 1922, when he was transferred to the Forest Service, as a temporary forest guard. He was appointed to the permanent staff as forest ranger in 1923, to the professional division as forest assistant, Wellington, in 1925, and in 1926 transferred to Auckland. In 1928 Foster became acting-Conservator of Forests, Nelson, and in 1930.
Conservator of Forests there. He was promoted to Conservator, Hokitika, in 1938; to Working Plans and Silvicultural Officer, Head Office, in 1940; and was appointed Inspector-in-Charge, Management Division, in 1946.

Foster retired from the Forest Service on September 6, 1950, but was by no means finished with forestry. His retiring leave had barely started when he accepted a position as forestry liaison officer with the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council, a position which he retained until his retirement from it in 1962.

The author of papers on "The Taxation of Land and Standing Timber in New Zealand" for the 1923 British Empire Forestry Conference, and on "Exotic Forests of New Zealand" for the 1947 British Empire Forestry Conference, he was also editor of the early Forest Service newsletter Te Karere O Tane and from 1926 to 1935 an examiner for the New Zealand University Senate in certain subjects for the Bachelor of Forestry Science degree. He was an authority on the administration of the Forests Act, the Land Act, and the Mining Act in respect of land and timber. His long service covered the period of large-scale afforestation, the commencement of the utilization of these forests, and the change to intensive forestry on a basis of planned management.

Frank Foster will be remembered not only for his qualities as a forester, but also for his quiet but colourful personal attributes. Many a head office calculation has been upset by Frank's informed knowledge of his rights, and if the occasional bit of unessential red tape was temporarily overlooked, well, he made apologies and explanations later. Is there one of us who can think of Frank Foster without recalling an impression rich in gentleness, courtesy, uprightness and old-world charm?

CHARLES ETHELBERT FOWERAKER (1886-1964)

Charles Foweraker was born in Waimate, South Canterbury, and thus came naturally to Christchurch for his higher education.

Choosing education as his vocation, he went through the training college to become a fully certificated teacher, at the same time taking his university studies to an M.A. degree in botany.

He was therefore exceptionally well qualified to accept appointment as Lecturer in Botany at Canterbury College in 1921.

Going overseas with the N.Z.E.F. in World War I, he saw service in the Near East and in France, and, on conclusion of hostilities, took a course in forestry at Cambridge University before returning to New Zealand.

On the establishment of the School of Forestry at Canterbury College in 1925, he was appointed Lecturer in Silviculture and Lecturer in Charge of the School. In this capacity he administered the School over its ten-year lifetime to produce a generation of forestry graduates whose sound grounding and professional skill are now evident in all branches of forestry activity in this country.

He took an active part in the formation of our Institute, serving on the constitutional drafting committee, was a Charter Member and several times an officeholder, including the Presidential chair.

Other interests included membership on the controlling authorities of Riccarton Bush, Peel Forest and Arthurs Pass National Park, besides his very close and active participation in the Canterbury Philosophical Institute, now the Royal Society.

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