obtaining animal photos for the book, now published many times, entitled Wild Animals in New Zealand.

I later had the pleasure of collaborating with him in two further books, both of which were well received by the public, and are still readily available in schools and public libraries. In the meantime John was becoming well known as a forest photographer in other countries, especially the USA, and earned an Associateship of the Royal Photographic Society, which he richly deserved.

His contribution to public understanding of forestry is very important because foresters in general have shown themselves not well skilled in putting across their views - well illustrated by the great success, over the last 20 years, of the so-called conservationists.

Although John has officially retired he is still seeking the elusive Rembrandt - yet another outstanding picture to add to those he has already committed to print or film - and is currently working on a book of native conifers of New Zealand and, with Lindsay Poole, on the grand prospects for forestry in the future.

By anyone's standards, John's contribution to forestry needs wide recognition and his election to Honorary status in the Institute of Forestry recognises this.

G. Chavasse

Hon. Peter Tapsell

In recognition of his service to the Forestry Sector as Minister of Forests in the Holyoake Government the Hon. Duncan McIntyre was made an Honorary member of our Institute in 1973. The Institute now wishes to recognise the contribution of another politician - the Hon. Peter Tapsell.

Before entering national politics in 1981 Dr Peter Tapsell was a Rotorua orthopaedic surgeon with a long involvement in local politics. In August 1987, at the beginning of the second term of the fourth Labour Government, Peter Tapsell was appointed Minister of Forests. He was, reluctantly we understand, removed from that position in February 1990.

In those two and half years Peter Tapsell proved to be a considerable champion for forestry.

He travelled overseas on three missions in which forestry was a major interest:

- Scandinavia, Canada and Chile
- Korea and Japan
- Scandinavia, United Kingdom and USSR

Those visits only served to reinforce Peter Tapsell's conviction that forestry had much to offer New Zealand.

During his term Peter Tapsell was a great advocate for a closer working relationship between the radiata growers of New Zealand, Chile and Australia. He was not Minister long enough to achieve all he hoped in this area.

While not always in step with some of his colleagues Peter was known to express his concerns about the arbitrary division between commercial and environmental forestry. While there was not a plantation forest that did not have some conservation values, Peter Tapsell was confident that there were few indigenous forests from which some wood production was not possible.

With the break up of the Forest Service and the pending sale of the forests to the private sector (some of whom may be based overseas) Peter Tapsell became concerned about the maintenance of New Zealand's forest management standards. He saw a Forest Policy, and maybe a new Forest Act, as a contribution to maintaining a high standard of forest stewardship. He recognised that dialogue was the key to acceptance of both the Policy and the Act. He began the process with interested parties working on a forestry policy. He was removed from his ministerial position before he could complete the task.

Our Institute members have always found Peter Tapsell very approachable and a good listener. He was, and will remain, an advocate for forestry.

W.R.J. Sutton

Population and plantations

A recent news item took my attention

"The world's net population gain currently averages three new people every SECOND."

This increase has very significant implications for world forestry. The
current annual wood usage per person averages nearly 0.7 m$^3$. This means that the world’s annual wood demand increases by 2 m$^3$ every second,
or 120 m$^3$ every minute
or 7000 m$^3$ every hour
or 173,000 m$^3$ every day
or 64 million m$^3$ every year.

On recent trends even this increase is probably conservative. The actual increase in the wood harvest for 1987 (the year for which we have the most recent information) was 98 million m$^3$ and the annual increase in the world harvest over the last five years averaged 85 million m$^3$/year.

Given the environmental pressures all around the world to restrict, or even prohibit, felling of much of the remaining indigenous forests, and given the very limited contribution that plantation forests are currently making (and can make in the future) the implications for the world’s future wood supply are serious.

Wood has few substitutes, as almost all require energy and alternative energy sources seem, at least for the foreseeable future, limited to either fossil fuels or nuclear power.

Where can the world’s additional wood supplies come from?

Plantations are the obvious answer but the scale of new planting is massive and the delay is long.

To supply a 60 million m$^3$ annual wood harvest the world requires the production from the equivalent of three million hectares of radiata pine plantations every year! The ongoing world demand for just one year’s increase in the world’s population requires the maximum sustainable yield and harvest from the total area of ALL the existing radiata pine plantations in New Zealand, Chile, Australia, Spain and South Africa COMBINED. For next year’s population increase the world will need the equivalent of another eight million hectares of radiata plantations, and a further three million hectares of radiata the year after that! And all that assumes that the existing harvest level and quality requirements can be sustained from the existing forests of the world.

World thinking tends to focus on the food demands resulting from the population increase. The wood demand could be even more critical, given the high capital requirements, the need for fertile well-watered land, and the long lead time – all of which assumes we already have appropriate fast-growing species and the appropriate management technology.

We are a favoured country indeed!

W.R.J. Sutton

NEW INFORMATION

Ministerial briefing

The Ministry of Forestry’s (MOF) briefing document for the new Minister and Associate Minister of Forestry, prepared in February 1990, gives an over-view of the forestry sector and the issues it faces.

It describes in summary form: the forest resources; the wood-based industries; current international, national and local issues; a “situation analysis” for the sector; the structure and role of MOF and the issues it is facing. These, of course, include the reorganisation of the Forest Research Institute following its review by Professor Ferguson and the likely response to the radical changes in the Government’s research and science policy. It concludes that “FRI or part of FRI will be forced to adopt a SOE (State Owned Enterprises) status or some other type of company form”. Given the fate of other SOEs, this would not seem to be a good omen.

One slightly unusual point is the way the future place of forestry exports in the economy is dealt with: “Industry predicts an increase to 30% of total exports by the year 2010”. MOF does not appear to have its own projection for this, presumably because there are no realistic export projections for other sectors (outside forestry?) 20 years ahead. The question then is: how does industry arrive at this figure, and should MOF give it the stamp of authority by briefing their Minister with it? And should the Minister be using it in public statements?

Apart from this niggle, the briefing (which is publicly available) gives a good potted summary of the sector and is a useful reference document.

C. Bassett