The Forestry Club

The Club Log

At the close of another session we are able to look back over a very satisfactory year for the Club. The addresses and discussions have been well up to the standard set in previous years.

The first meeting was held on 28th March, and was devoted to election of officers and arrangement of the programme for the year. Our President, C. T. Sando, had been chosen at the final meeting of last year. The additional officers elected were Vice-President, G. H. Hocking; Secretary-Treasurer, P. S. Whitehead; additional Committee member, A. C. B. Wade; Editor of "Te Kura Ngahere," H. Z. Collier.

At the second meeting, held on 11th April, Mr. Sando gave his presidential address, his subject being "Logging." He gave an interesting account of the methods in log transport in all parts of the world, illustrating his subject with numerous photos and slides. Of particular value was his tracing of the development of New Zealand methods showing their derivation from other lands and their adaptation to local conditions.

The third meeting was held on 2nd May, when Mr. Hitchcock, Manager of the Municipal Electricity Department, addressed the Club on the "Los Angeles Aqueduct," depicting with diagrams and slides the great system of dams, pipelines and ditches. Judging by the strict attention given by all present this lecture was a decided success.

On 6th June the School's two-reel motion-picture film of logging in the kauri forest was shown. This film depicts the kauri logging industry as it was carried out in the steep, rough country of North Auckland up until a few years ago, showing the whole process from felling to arrival at the mill. A detail of particular interest was the river driving with the help of splashdams high up in the steep gorges.

The meeting on 4th July was a discussion evening, the subject being Summer Vacation experiences. Hocking, who had been at the State Forest Service plantations at Hanmer, gave an account of the method used in marking trees for thinning, as well as observations on natural regeneration and other silvicultural problems. Collier gave an illustrated account of a two weeks' tramping tour in the mountains of the Lake Wakatipu region in Otago. Very fine scenery was encountered, this being mainly due to large areas of native beech forest. All the four chief species were present in definite altitudinal zones. Sando and Wickett had been engaged on timber reconnaissance in different parts of the South Island. Wickett told of the laying out and cutting of cruise lines in Nelson, and of the timber trees encountered there, while Sando, who had been in the beech forests of North Canterbury, explained the methods used there for topographic mapping and timber appraisal.

For the meeting on 18th July the Club was looking forward to an address by Mr. W. G. Morrison, Conservator of Forests for Canterbury, but, unfortunately, he was unable to be there on the date arranged. The evening was profitably occupied by an impromptu programme of slides on many aspects of forestry which were discussed as shown.

At the next meeting, that of 1st August, the Club was privileged to hear an address by Mr. W. J. Butler, President of the Dominion Federated Sawmillers. Mr. Butler dealt with certain aspects of forestry from a sawmiller's viewpoint, covering a number of points, particularly in regard to better utilization, the value of costing studies, and the aims of the Federation as set out in its proposed Timber Efficiency Bill. The trouble taken by Mr. Butler to give us this address, which entailed a special trip from Wellington at a busy time, is deeply appreciated, while all members enjoyed the opportunity of meeting Mr. Butler personally, and of listening to the experiences of one who has spent a lifetime in the forest industries, related in a most happy, informal vein, as a supplement to his address.
The final ordinary meeting for the year was that held on 26th September, when Mr. R. M. Laing addressed us on the vegetation of the sub-Antarctic islands of New Zealand. Mr. Laing was a member of the expedition sent out some years ago by the Canterbury Philosophical Institute, and gave a most interesting account of the visit to the Snares, Auckland and Campbell Islands, dealing principally with the characteristic vegetation, but also with the bird and animal life of each. The most interesting of the many side-lights on the history of these islands was that dealing with their discovery of a band of shipwrecked sailors, who had successfully maintained themselves for six months on these desolate and barren islands. The coracle which these men built of canvas over a frame of Olearia scrub, and in which they successfully crossed to the main Auckland Island was a monument to the inventiveness that is the child of necessity. It now rests in the Canterbury Museum.

The annual business meeting was held on 2nd October, when the balance sheet was presented, and the officers for the ensuing year elected. They were as follows: President, P. S. Whitehead; Vice-President, H. Z. Collier; Secretary, H. C. Wickett. Additional officers to be chosen at the beginning of next year.

The Club dinner was held on 20th September, members assembling as before at the Royal Hotel. The function proved a most enjoyable one, fully up to all expectations set by past years. Toasts were given with musical honours. The President led with that of “The King.” Mr. Wickett then proposed the health of “The Staff,” in a bright and spirited vein. Mr. Foweraker, in reply, spoke of the great pleasure it gave him to be on the staff of the Canterbury College School of Forestry, and stated that the staff would always be willing to help all members even after they had severed their tie with the College itself. Mr. Hutchinson then proposed the health of the School, expressing his pleasure in the contacts formed with the students as they passed through the College, and later as they entered fully into the ranks of the profession. Mr. Collier, in proposing the toast of “Those Leaving,” stated the indebtedness of the Club to them for their loyal support, and expressed the hope that they would continue in touch with it in the future. Mr. Hocking replied, saying that those leaving this year would always remember the Club, and give it all the support possible. The dinner over, adjournment was made in part to the Athletic Club dance, and for the remainder to the skating rink, where the evening was fittingly concluded.

Camp Notes

The annual spring camp was held this year in the exotic forests of Canterbury, being located at Homebush, through the kindness of Mr. Jas. Deans. Homebush proved itself an ideal place for the practical work of the camp, having within easy reach not only the extensive plantations of the estate, but also many areas of the Selwyn Plantation Board. The homestead blocks contain fine examples of practically all species of exotics generally grown in Canterbury, together with many others not commonly seen, which furnished great scope for the dendrologists. Surveying, mensuration, forest engineering and utilisation crews found plenty to occupy their time. It was in the silviculture, however, that the lion’s share of the time was spent, and it was here that the true bushmen of the party were revealed. After sagely cogitating matters of site, stocking, and survival, the order was given to get at it. So we got. There was thinning to be done—tough English oak, sixty years old, to be felled and cut into posts; springy, gummy young pines on our Hororata thinning block to be cut up for cordwood. Many the blunted blade, the broken helve, and the blistered palm. Liberation cuttings and reproduction cuttings in the older mixed stands provided much food for hot argument. Which way to throw her, lodging, hanging, swinging, wedging, swedg-