

this forest commenced under his guidance on a small scale prior to World War I with the high standard of establishment practice indicative of his sound practical training. In the post-war planting boom of the twenties, Macrae supervised the planting of the greater part of the Kaingaroa Forest, some 200,000 acres. During that period roads were poor, transport limited, and labour indifferent. Thus the task of organizing and carrying out the gigantic planting programmes of those years was no mean one by any standard. Macrae retired in 1931 and was widely honoured on the occasion of his retirement. The *Evening Post*, Wellington, of December 8th, 1931, stated:

"A gathering yesterday afternoon did honour to Mr. Roderick Macrae, who has just retired from the New Zealand State Forest Service after putting up what is probably an Empire record—in afforestation. He has personally supervised the planting under the State Forest Service or the Lands Department, of over 200,000 acres of tree. The more it is analyzed the more convincing is the mere arithmetic of this planting feat. But its meaning goes far beyond figures. Anyone present at yesterday's tribute to Mr. Macrae would have realized that it was a demonstration not only of his ability but of his character. Measured by the ordinary marks of rank, Mr. Macrae does not stand high in academic forestry. He had no college training. He had no letters after his name. He has never been any sort of limelighter. To bring him into any sort of limelight you have to drag him there. But the whole of the State Forest Service, from the Director of Forestry downward, demanded that Mr. Macrae's exit from the Service be duly honoured, hence his modest presence yesterday."

"Old Mac," as he was known to his colleagues young and old, was a sterling character. I recall planting my first tree for the Forest Service in 1926 at Kaingaroa under his supervision, a supervision kindly yet critical.

Although it did not come to fruition until many years after his retirement, the gigantic industrial undertaking at Kawerau, drawing its wood requirements from the Kaingaroa Forest, constitutes a lasting memorial to Roderick Macrae.

—A. D. McKinnon.

OWEN JONES

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Owen Jones at Rotorua on the 7th February, 1955. His mark will be left on the Institute which he served as President in the years 1946-48; but, of more lasting importance, he will leave an indelible mark upon the infant perambulations of New Zealand forestry, since he stood steadfastly by professional ethics and so occupied the position of one of its elder and respected statesmen.

Born in 1888 at Farringdon, England, he received his forestry training at Coopers Hill, Oxford, under Sir William Schlich, and added to this a period of training on the Continent, more particularly in Germany. From 1911 to 1916 he was Assistant Conservator of

Forests, Ceylon, but resigned to enlist as one of Britain's original "Warbirds" in the Royal Flying Corps. After the end of World War I he was appointed Chairman of the Victoria Forestry Commission, a post he held until 1925.

In 1925 he came to New Zealand as forester to N.Z. Perpetual Forests, the forerunner of N.Z. Forest Products Ltd. In that capacity he was entirely responsible for laying the foundations of forest practice in what was then essentially a company promotion venture. No afforestation concern in New Zealand possesses the fundamental records that Owen Jones gave to this youthful company.

On the outbreak of World War II Owen Jones joined the N.Z. Forestry Companies and was appointed O.C. of the 14th Company. Once in England, however, he sought an avenue of occupation that would make fuller use of his experience and gifts. He became a photographic interpreter in the British Army, and at peaceful Maidenhead on the Thames he could be found making the most revealing discoveries about the ingeniously camouflaged countryside, some of which he had known at the time of his youthful continental studies.

Upon release from the Army he was retained by his former Company in a consulting capacity and was also a practising forestry consultant throughout New Zealand. Some of the working plans he compiled during this period are noteworthy documents, written as they were for the layman, and expressed his fundamental grasp of forest practice.

In his Presidential address in 1948 he gave the Institute some sound advice, exhorting it in particular to adopt high standards "so that it may win general recognition as the authoritative body where forestry matters are concerned." He advocated full and free discussion amongst Institute members, and although he deplored the extravagant and wasteful methods of conversion adopted by the British into many parts of the world, he counselled a wide membership covering the varied activities of forestry and the forest products industries.

Apart from his stalwart qualities as a forester he possessed outstanding academic ability and the mind that was always seeking to learn. Once when visited at Maidenhead when both his mental abilities and his eyesight were being taxed with intricate interpretation work he was found learning shorthand—as a mental relaxation, he explained. He was possessed naturally of a pleasant frame of mind and ever had an anecdote or witticism ready for all occasions, including the most difficult. An unforgettable recollection of him towards the end of his life was in hospital, punctured by a contraction of tubes which must have caused great suffering, but still relating anecdotes.

A year or two before his death he was working at the Forest Research Institute, collating his extensive series of measurements on the growth of radiata pine. He had an unparalleled knowledge of this subject but, unfortunately for New Zealand practitioners, did not complete the work.

—A. L. Poole.