

SUMMING UP PAPERS AND DISCUSSIONS ON MULTIPLE-USE FORESTRY

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Perhaps the individual papers were not so wide-ranging as the executive had hoped — some discussed single-purpose forestry; some dual-purpose; a few only ventured into the multiple-use field. But looked at as a whole we have certainly had variety; we have also, in every case, had quality. A major result could be that some of us at least may no longer believe that forestry in New Zealand begins and ends with the pumice lands.

When such an expert as Bob Fenton finds such difficulty with cost-benefit analysis, there is some excuse for the rest of us if we try to dodge it. But we must all now understand better how to evaluate production forestry by specifying the details he requires regarding land, labour, capital and returns. We may still be a little bewildered by the view: "that cost-benefit analysis may be anything from an infallible means of reaching the new Utopia to a waste of resources in attempting to measure the unmeasurable". I personally would plump for the middle view: "that some estimate, however rough, is better than none at all". I would also hope that Bob will help us further in shedding some light on a very dark corner — the evaluation of the recreational, scenic and hydrological effects of production forestry.

John Morris clarified our ideas as to what protection forestry really is, and showed how our own protection forests come very close to the strict definition. At a time when water, both quantity and quality, is becoming of increasing importance, it was good to have both the direct and indirect effects of protection forests on water and soils so clearly expounded. His discussion on protection-production forests came very near to real and full multiple use. In spite of the difficulties of cost-benefit studies in a field where there are so many intangibles, he wisely advised: "that this difficulty is no reason for not attempting the job", and at least we should get on with the job of collecting data.

My main reaction to Ross Macarthur's paper was how unusual it was to have an engineer providing much of the argument for the establishment of dual-purpose forests as a major part of watershed management. Using figures arising from work in the Wairau River catchment, Ross, quite apart from any intangible benefits, claimed justification for a major steep-land conservation and reforestation programme. I was also struck with his appeal for long-term periods of analysis, even to the extent of advocating 100 years.

Gavin Molloy showed how, in certain areas in Westland, with the right management rimu forests were producing on a basis of sustained yield without destruction of the scenery which is now fundamentally essential to the expanding tourist

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business. I consider it particularly appropriate that at the time Gavin was expounding his ideas the Pacific Area Travel Association meeting in Auckland was devoting a whole day to Westland and its tourist potential.

In a very down-to-earth presentation John Ure showed how vital true multiple use in the Tararua Forest Park will be to the wellbeing of the vast and rapidly increasing population between Wellington and Palmerston North. Rejecting the temptation to speculate on results from cost-benefit analysis, he nevertheless satisfied most, if not all of us, that the need for recreation and outdoor education of half a million people is sufficient justification for the maintenance of this forest.

Peter Olsen's story on Mangatu Forest must be considered in conjunction with the field day in the upper catchment of the Waipaoa River. Described as "a production forest with a major protection value" — and one of its aims is to protect 43,000 acres of the highest-producing agricultural land — it will also have considerable scenic and recreational value as well as having an important influence on water quality. In 1946 I stood on the edge of the Tarndale slip and was shocked by the size of the catastrophe into insisting that the planting of trees was the only hope of control. Labelled a visionary at the time, it was a joy to go there yesterday, on that superbly organized excursion, and see the results of planting 12,000 acres since 1960. To those of us who are so attuned to the colours of evergreen conifers, I must draw attention to the scenic value of poplars in conjunction with conifers. The story of Homestead Gully (and the 346,000 acres in Poverty Bay with similar problems) reminds me of the man who thanked God for the pioneers who chopped down the bush so we had room to plant trees!

As Chief Soil Conservator to the Wairarapa Catchment Board, Murray King was early on the job using trees for the control of soil erosion. Much of his work is on gully control in the steep hill country; his first-hand description of flow reduction and regulation so soon after retirement and planting, and their intensification as the canopy develops, must give encouragement to others. The rest of his paper brought us back to multiple use with his catalogue of the effects of forests on precipitation and on the yield and quality of water.

Charlie Challenger, the first of a new race of teachers of landscape design in New Zealand, was unable to come. I must congratulate Peter McKelvey, who had only an hour's notice, on being such an admirable interpreter of a landscape architect who has a vital appreciation of the part forests play (and could play better) in our landscapes. Charlie showed clearly how, at little cost and with equally little effort, we could benefit the landscape by modifying planting programmes if we but accept his contention "that forestry is not only an industry but also a major component of the scenery".

Finally, Priestley Thomson asked the hard question: "Who pays?" and came to some unexceptionable conclusions presented in a logical and closely-reasoned manner. Nor was he loath to illustrate some cases where the custodians of land

should re-consider their attitudes and practices. There will be many who will share his view that future generations of New Zealanders should have untrammelled access to forested hill and mountain country and thus be enabled to enjoy one of New Zealand's great social assets.

Your executive broke new ground in the programme for this meeting. I see many able young men here, at the threshold of their careers in forestry. The full development of multiple-use forestry will be in their hands to plan and to implement. I would suggest we have a similar programme in 1980 and allot some of them the task of assessing the situation as it is then.