



FOREST ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

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Finnish Forest Research Institute, Helsinki, Finland

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

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Colloquium

On 13th December at 14.15 in the Department's conference room, Tuomas Heiramo will be telling about his first-year's experience as information officer of the Institute. His comments for the Newsletter follow.

This first year of more intensive "official" information activity at the Forest Research Institute has been an interesting one dedicated to collecting general experience about the right and proper channels and forms for our forestry information. The work was begun on the basis of a fixed list of tasks for the brand-new information officer. By now we have an idea about the actual character of the day-to-day work and are able to evaluate to what extent the original functions have been performed and whether there are to be found any disturbing factors. We can now also change the formal tasks, if so required by our observations.

Though it seems now that no basic changes in the organization are necessary, it is quite obvious that we must start the new year with more intensive, more effective and more radical action. First of all, we need a long-term plan for our information activities. This is a fundamental question, the final solution of which must be preceded by in-depth consultations with as many researchers as possible. As for the internal relationships in the Institute, initiatives must be taken in order to establish direct and functioning contacts between the researchers and information personnel of the Institute.

A wide-ranging reform must be carried out in our publication activity. We must be realistic enough to admit that the probability of employing an editor for the series Folia Forestalia and Communicationes Instituti Forestalis Fenniae is not great. But we must reply to the complaints from foresters in the field, who generally find that our publications are as unavailable as their content is complicated. We must develop ways of writing and distributing the results of our research work in a more effective manner than we are accustomed to using, so that they are more easily available for those who need to make use of them.

The most severe practical problem has been undoubtedly the lack of sufficient assistant personnel. The current situation will lead to an increased number of secondary functions being performed by the information personnel. To these specific and practical topics one must add, for discussion at least, the criticized role of the Newsletter.

Forest Economics Outside Finland, III

Arnold Grayson, of the British Forestry Commission, has sent a brief outline of the objectives and organization of the Planning and Economics Branch. Those interested in further details should contact him at the following address:

Forestry Commission
 Planning & Economics Branch
 Alice Holt Lodge
 Wrecclesham, Farnham
 Surrey, England

The objectives of the Planning and Economics Branch are to act as consultants to line management in planning and economics, and specifically:

- a) to assist in the development and maintenance of a system of planning in the Forestry Commission,
- b) to assist HQ Divisions in formulating plans and to assemble and maintain the Commission's Corporate Plan,
- c) to advise and help Conservators and other line managers in the preparation and maintenance of tactical and operational plans,
- d) to help in reviewing and formulating forest policy,
- e) to keep in touch with technical, economic and social trends bearing on forest policy and practice.

The Branch is organized to provide a flexible response to frequently changing priorities in a wide variety of subject-matter fields. The areas of work and the corresponding project leaders are as follows:

1. Forest policy - A.J. Grayson
2. Corporate plan - A.J. Grayson
3. Private forestry - A.J. Grayson
4. Conservancy planning - R.J. Busby & J.F. Morgan
5. Guides to management - J.F. Morgan
6. Production forecasting - J.F. Morgan
7. Environment studies - R.M. Sidaway

In addition to these seven areas, there are three lines of work which are necessary either to ensure the useful application of the main areas or to serve them directly.

- a) training of Forestry Commission staff in planning and economics topics,
- b) development and application of techniques appropriate to resolution of planning and economic problems (e.g. investment criteria, decision criteria and programming of activities, cost-benefit analysis for recreation, labour productivity measurement, price determination),
- c) maintenance of records, data analyses and indices specific to work of the Planning and Economics Branch (e.g. statistics on cost, price, growing-stock analyses).

New publications

Aho, Markku. Me ja meidän organisaatiomme. (Our organization and us). Metsänhoitaja, 21:6. Helsinki, 1971.

Huttunen, Terho. Suomen puunkäyttö, poistuma ja metsätase vuosina 1969-71. Summary: Wood consumption, total drain and forest balance in Finland in 1969-71. Folia Forestalia, 127. Helsinki, 1971.

- Jones, Michael. Landhöjningen i Zachris Topelius ögon. (Land uplift through the eyes of Zachris Topelius). Österbotten 1971. (Skrifter utgivna av Svensk-Österbottniska Samfundet, 26-- Årsbok, 16). Vasa, 1971.
- Juslin, Heikki. Kaupallisen metsätutkinnon opetuksen yleinen rakenne. (The general structure of teaching for the Commercial Forest Examination). Metsäylioppilas, 3. Helsinki, 1971.
- Reunala, Aarne. Mitä tiedämme metsänomistuksen rakennemuutoksesta. (What we know about the structural change in forest ownership). TEHO, no. 10. Helsinki, 1971.
- Salo, Esko. Polttopuun käyttö vähenee. (The consumption of fuelwood is decreasing). Metsä ja Puu, no. 9. Helsinki, 1971.
- Vehviläinen, Hannu. Ennakkotietoja metsäkoneiden kuljettajien ja käyttäjien ansiotaso- ja olosuhdetutkimuksesta. (A preliminary investigation of the working conditions and payment of drivers of forest machinery). Metsäkoneurakoitsija, no. 9. Helsinki, 1971.
- " Metsätyömiesten moottorisahakustannukset 1969-70. (Forest workers' power-saw costs, 1969-70). TEHO, no. 10. Helsinki, 1971.

Extension course for foresters

Prof. Heikinheimo, Jouko Hämäläinen and Sampsa Sivonen have been leaders in an extension course sponsored by the Finnish Foresters' Association. The course deals with alternative calculations for the growing and harvesting of wood. Prof. Heikinheimo has dealt with the point of view of the national economy, Jouko with that of the firm. Sampsa has discussed growth calculations. Altogether there are to be three two-day meetings. The first was held in Helsinki, 22-23 November and the second in Jyväskylä, 24-25 November. The third meeting will take place in Oulu, 13-14 December.

World Bank

Finland's application for a loan from the World Bank for the MERA forest-improvement programme is progressing. Professor Kuusela, of the Institute's Department of Yield and Inventory, has recently been in the U S A for negotiations.

State Teaching Centre

In some ministries, it seems, there is a possibility for radical (or at least new and different) undertakings. There is now a State Teaching Centre in the Ministry of Finance which is for use by State employees during working hours. A wide variety of courses are given. Of particular interest are the language courses; English, Swedish, French, German, and Russian are taught. Those in the Department who would like to enroll in one of the courses for spring 1972 should contact Marja Harmanen before 27th December.

Chile

Last April and May, Prof. Osara was a member of a team of Finnish forestry experts that made a three-week trip to Chile. This trip has now resulted in an agreement being signed between Finland and Chile. The Finnish engineering firm Jaakko Pöyry & Co. will be responsible for the planning. The Finnish Government will contribute 1.5 million Fmks while the Government of Chile will put up 460.000 Fmks.

U S A

In response to his receiving the second anniversary issue of the Newsletter, Dennis Schweitzer of the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment (U.S. Forest Service) has been kind enough to send the Department a very interesting publication. "The future forest policy and the 1970 national timber review" is a collection of viewpoints on American forest policy that were presented by various professional people to the Portland (Oregon, U S A) Chapter of the Columbia River Section of the Society of American Foresters. The Chapter in July 1971 published the papers, which cover the period December 1970-June 1971.

England

Dr. Cyril Hart has sent us notification of the recent publication of two books he has written: *The Verderers and Forest Laws of Dean*; *The Industrial History of Dean*. Both are published by David & Charles. Cyril Hart is Senior Verderer of the Forest of Dean, a consultant in estate management and forestry, and lecturer in forestry and estate economy at the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester. He lives at Coleford in Gloucestershire.

Scotland

Afforestation in Scotland is the subject of an article by A.S. Mather in the *Institute of British Geographers, Transactions* no. 54, Nov. 1971. The article, "Problems of afforestation in north Scotland," deals with various aspects of the British forestry effort in the Scottish Highlands.

India

Buddhi Jha was pleased to tell us that his scholarship from the Ministry of Labour has been extended for six months.

Pakistan

A few weeks ago the Department was challenged by the Private Forestry Department of the National Board of Forestry to give money for the refugees from East Pakistan. A collection was made which netted 115 mk, which is to be given to the Finnish "Save the Children Fund."

Hong Kong

A tough new strain of the Hong Kong flu has invaded the Department. Lorenzo Runeberg was the first to succumb, followed by Pertti Mikkola, Esko Salo, Erkki Berg, and Matti Palo. David Cope looks like he's well on the way to a spell at home and everyone else is spending most of their time worrying about how not to get sick.

Germany in Sweden

Thursday 25th November saw a visit to the Department by Dr. Robert Holzapfl, the West German forestry attaché in Stockholm. He was here visiting Prof. Heikinheimo.

Finland Alumni

The second issue of Finland Alumni News has been published. Michael Jones is the editor and David Cope was a member of the editorial sub-committee. This magazine is the newsletter of Finland Alumni Association, an organization of Finnish-government scholarship holders which is under the auspices of the Ministry of Education.

Those working Saturdays again

First, apologies for what has turned out to be an incorrect report in the last Newsletter. It seems that Finnish Independence Day, December 6th, is to be a free day after all. The trade unions and the employers' association made a special agreement about this at the end of November. So there's no need to turn up for work on Saturday 11th December.

As for the Christmas holidays, the situation seems to be pretty straight forward. Work finishes at 16.15 on 23rd December and begins again at 8.00 on the 27th. There will be no working Saturdays since most of the holiday falls on the weekend.

For the new year the situation is still a bit muddled. Since New Year's Day falls on Saturday, there will be no extra working day for that. However, it looks like Epiphany, 6th January, will be celebrated on Thursday the 6th and not on Saturday the 8th as has been planned. The church council has refused to accept the shift of Epiphany, Ascension Day and Whit Monday to Saturdays until 1973. This means that Saturday 8th January will be a working day. But you never can be sure about these things. The best thing to do will be to check with Marja Harmanen in the beginning of January.

A look at Christmas

"Christmas is a festival of peace in Finland. This even seems to be reflected in crime figures, which fall very low at Christmas."

"Prices are high on the Christmas market, but the Finns are conservative in their choice of tree and will settle for nothing less than the real thing. The plastic imitation tree has not much of a future on the Finnish market."

(Look at Finland, no. 5, 1970)

Times change and so do people's tastes. In only one year the artificial Christmas tree has made inroads on the Finnish Christmas-tree market. Stores everywhere have them in their display windows. Perhaps it's just a sign that Finland is becoming "civilized". Be that as it may, let's hope Lorenzo doesn't support this kind of substitution of plastic for wood.

Little Christmas party

A meeting of the Department's personnel, which everybody is expected to attend, will be held in the conference room on Thursday, 16th December, starting at 1.00 p.m., to celebrate "Little" Christmas. It could be a wild occasion, as David Cope will also be celebrating the last day of his bachelorhood.