



# FOREST ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Editors: Michael Jones and David Cope

Finnish Forest Research Institute, Helsinki, Finland

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### Colloquium

Professor Stig Jaatinen, from the Department of Geography at Helsinki University, will be introducing the next meeting of the colloquium, to be held on Monday 28th February at 14.15 in the Department's conference room. The topic will be "Finnish colonization in the Upper Great Lakes area - initial conditions, settlement activity and present situation."

The position of the early Finnish immigrants as they faced their new environment will be looked at, and their reactions both to natural conditions and economic circumstances examined. Particular points of interest are how the Finns in this region of North America went about clearing the land for new settlement, what they did as colonizers and what the end results are today. The starting points and the original attitudes of the Finns to cultivation and forestry are of pertinence in examining the actual situation in these areas at the present time. Comparisons with Finland are an inevitable part of this assessment.

### Colloquia programme

The remaining colloquia for spring, 1972, will be as follows:

- 20th March Seppo Kaunisto: Aspects of peatland forestry in Finland.
- 24th April Prof. Heikki Waris: International social-development policy.
- 29th May An all-day departmental seminar to discuss ideas for future research.

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### Jan Heino: The controversial MERA programme

Last year, Finland began unofficial negotiations with the World Bank for a loan to finance part of the MERA (forest-financing) programme, which aims at a considerable increase in forest growth and cutting possibilities. The committee behind this programme has stressed its necessity primarily with the forest balance in mind.

The most important types of work included in MERA, with preliminary information on the results for 1970 in brackets, are as follows:

- Forest planting and seeding (139 600 ha)
- Seedling-stand improvement (167 554 ha)
- Forest fertilization (179 724 ha)
- Forest drainage (290 619 ha)
- Forest-road construction (2 706 km).

Enthusiasm over these results and the new goals which have been set has not, however, been undivided. Economists and biologists, among others, have questioned the whole matter of rendering timber production more effective. Headlines have appeared in

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### Cover picture

The cover drawing is reproduced by kind permission of Henrik Tikkanen. It originally appeared in Fincell's statistical report for 1961 (Helsinki, 1962).

the press such as "MERA lowers our economic growth" and "MERA programme, destroyer of nature."

Criticism against MERA has come, roughly speaking, from two directions: doubt has been expressed about the economic results and emphasis has been placed on the negative effects for nature. The criticism against MERA has, on the other hand, been countered primarily with economic arguments: three-fifths of Finland's exports are still based on the products of wood-processing, and therefore a continuous, increasing supply of roundwood is of vital importance for the national economy and the growth of the gross national product.

Seen from the viewpoint of nature, MERA does in fact involve large changes: between 1970 and 1975, over 1.5 million ha of peatland will be drained, about 30 000 km of forest roads built, more than 2 million ha fertilized and over 0.5 million ha clear-cut. Nature conservationists are of the opinion that the forest will be changed by these radical operations into a monotonous timber-producing landscape from its former rich variety. Variation is one of the most important components in a stable forestry ecosystem. Perhaps on this point much more research should be undertaken. What is often forgotten in the debate is that silviculture is, broadly speaking, a highly developed form of nature conservation, even if its objectives are economic.

A negative feature of the discussion is that it has become rather emotional, which is partly due to the fact that new interest groups, such as outdoor recreationists and nature conservationists, have made their appearance in the sphere of forestry.

An attempt should be made to find a compromise solution to the conflict between the timber producers and the proponents of social and ethical nature conservation. One possibility would be to include in forest-improvement activity a grant for environmental conservation, so that the requirements of the latter can also be taken into consideration.

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#### Proposal for new Silviculture Law

On Thursday, 3rd February, the researchers of the Department held a discussion on the new Silviculture Law proposal made by the Forest Management Association Law Committee. Ilpo Tikkanen outlined the work of the committee and described the differences between the Private Forestry Law and the proposed Silviculture Law. Markku Aho led the discussion. The main interest was directed towards questions dealing with the political character of the suggested law.

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#### International visits

U S A and Canada. Professor Osara departed on 12th February for a one-month visit to North America. He will be giving some lectures in the U S A on aspects of Finnish forestry and will then go on to make a study trip to Canada.

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### Lectures

On 10th February, Matti Palo gave a lecture to the Society of Forestry in Finland on "Co-ordination of State-owned forest-industry firms."

Professor Lorenzo Runeberg is giving a series of lectures on "Plastics and forestry" in the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry at Helsinki University. They are held on Tuesday afternoon, between 13.00 and 15.00, at Metsätalo.

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### New Publications

- Jones, Michael. Tillandning, ägotvister och fritidsbebyggelse i Vasa skärgård. (Emergent land, ownership disputes and recreational development in the Vasa archipelago). Nordenskiöld-Samfundets Tidskrift, 31. Helsingfors, 1971.
- Reunala, Aarne, Tikkanen, Ilpo. Metsätilanomistajat metsätalouden edistämistoiminnan kohteena Keski-Suomessa. Summary: Non-farmer forest owners and promotion of private forestry. Folia Forestalia, 134. Helsinki, 1972.
- Vehviläinen, Hannu. Työvoiman ja koneiden käyttö metsäkoneurakoissa (The use of labour and machinery in forestry contracting). Metsä ja Puu, no. 2. Helsinki, 1972.

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### Received from abroad

U S A. Con H. Schallau, Assistant Director of the U S Forest Service's Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station at Ogden in Utah, has kindly sent us a recent publication entitled "Stratification of forest land for timber measurement planning on the Western National Forests" by J.H. Wikstrom and S. Blair Hutchison (USDA Forest Service Research Paper INT-108, October 1971). It gives an interesting commentary on changing forest land-use patterns in the Mountain West of the United States.

West Germany. The Federal Research Institute for Forestry and Wood Science at Reinbek in Germany has sent us their quarterly newsletter with details of their activities and recent publications.

U S A. One of the 180 issued copies of SoFew News, Volume 3, No. 5 (December, 1971) has arrived in the Department. This issue of the Newsletter of the Southern Forest Economics Workers contains a reference to our Newsletter and some of the Institute's publications.

Norway. A copy has been received by Michael Jones of a recent study made at the Department of Land Reallocation and Consolidation, Norwegian College of Agriculture, which should be of interest to forest economists. It is by Hans Sevattal and entitled "Eigedomstilfælde og skogreising på Vestlandet", with an English summary: "The pertinence of separate property characteristics to afforestation in Western Norway" (Institut for jordskifte og eiendomsutforming, Norges Landbrukshøgskole, Melding nr. 14, Ås - NLH, 1971).

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### Education at work

The Ministry of Finance has recently published a booklet entitled "Valtion henkilökuntakoulutuksen toiminta-ajatus" (The operational significance of educating State employees. Helsinki, 1971). The booklet presents guidelines for the provision of additional education for personnel working in State offices.

According to the booklet, an important part of education is provided at the place of work. Education is one of the official functions of the working organization, with the leaders of different sectors having special responsibility for the educational development of the personnel in their particular sectors. Education benefits the organization, by aiming to improve work results, and satisfies individual aspirations. The purpose of education is to support active self-development and to promote the attainment of the goals of State administration.

In present circumstances, the directors of offices and institutes have special responsibility for developing a planned educational framework, as well as encouraging general educational activity. Besides adding to the individual's existing knowledge and skills, education should produce individuals able and willing to acquire new proficiencies. The function of education should be to promote and channel the forces of change.

Education should try to satisfy both the demands of the working organization and the individual needs of those being educated. The requirements of the organization and the needs of the individual for personal development should run parallel to one another. It is in the interest of the employee to demand from his employer even education which does not directly influence his work results. Improvement of the employee's well-being is important in itself, regardless of whether it is linked to work effectivity or not.

Only measures which are in harmony with the needs of both employees and employers are likely to be successful. It is to the advantage of both sides when educational undertakings are well-planned and properly accomplished. Educational planning can be fulfilled by teamwork between employers and employees.

Offices and institutes can require personnel to take part in education by using the same powers as when ordering them to do other duties. The time used for such education is working time and the education should be free. Good educational planning should try to avoid divergent educational needs between employees and employers.

The measurement of results is a continuously necessary part of the educational process. This must be done by methods that are felt to be useful both by those being educated and the work leaders. Knowledge of the results can form a positive part of the educational process.

It is the duty of every work leader to take care of the development needs of his subordinates. While the ultimate responsibility for learning lies with the person being educated, the administrators of offices and institutes have responsibility for creating the possibilities for education. In a modern working community, all members have in some respect the role of teacher. This must be acknowledged and taken into account in activities. However, special responsibility lies with special educational personnel and the work leaders.

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New project(Supplement to Folia Forestalia, 87)

Project title: Forest-fertilization costs

Personnel: Tatu Ollikainen

Date of commencement: 1972

Planned date of completion: 1972

The study is a pilot work, through which it is hoped to create a basis for further investigation of the profitability of forest fertilization. Information will be collected separately from the governmental, industrial and private sectors. The investigation aims to provide increased knowledge about fertilizers, including their prices, the quantities used per ha, and transportation costs.

Heikki Juslin: New researchers?

The rise in the standard of new forestry students at Helsinki University during the past two years has been noted with interest in the Department. While the number of applicants has increased, the level of the new forestry students selected by the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry has risen. The following figures illustrate the development:

Year	No. of applicants	Mean-student-examination grades of those selected
1968	168	12.5
1969	171	11.2
1970	253	13.7
1971	427	14.4

An interesting question from the Department's point of view is what sort of researchers these new students might possibly make. Do good school results necessarily indicate good capabilities for research work?

Good school results are generally taken as indicating good abilities and a high motivation for school studies. The student examination (i.e. school-leaving examination) puts weight, however, on language ability. Success in the Finnish school system does not necessarily indicate creativity.

Success at school foreshadows to some extent success at university. The question of which of these is the best indicator of success at work is much more difficult to answer. If university studies are very specialized, and demand the same qualities required in working life, then success at university should indicate potential success at work better than school success will. If success at work demands general abilities, school success is then a better indicator.

One point to be considered is that school studies are guided, while at university studies are undertaken by the student independently. Attitudes to studies as well as abilities therefore strongly influence success at university.

In considering the selection of suitable researchers, it is possible to come to some general conclusions:

- if it is wanted to emphasize only general abilities, then selection can be made on the basis of school success
- if it is desired to have as researchers talented people who are forestry-oriented and have positive attitudes to studies, then the selection also has to take into account university degrees.

(It is planned to mention these problems in more detail in a planned research project dealing with the relationship between school and university success)

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#### Comings and goings: Personnel changes

Pertti Mikkola transferred to the Department of Forest Inventory and Yield on 1st February after working in the Forest Economics Department for 7 1/2 years. In his new job, he will be a crew leader in the Sixth National Forest Inventory and will be measuring stump removal.

Seija Malinen left the department at the end of January to concentrate on studying to become a social-welfare worker.

Olli Nissilä reluctantly said farewell on 14th February before joining the army the next day to begin his military service.

Mikko Tervo rejoined the Department at the beginning of February to assist Esko Salo. He is calculating the mean error in the statistics of felling amounts collected from a sub-sample for felling season 1970-71, using statistics provided by the National Board of Farms.

Stig-Olof Lillqvist, a student of forestry, joined the Department in February to help Terho Huttunen with his investigation into small sawmills in Finland in 1971.

Antero Mäkinen, who is studying data processing, has taken over Olli Nissilä's work as Matti Palo's assistant.

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#### Departmental news

The Department is having to manage without its research secretary this week. Marja Harmanen began a week's course on 21st February dealing with the rights, benefits and obligations of State employees on different types of contract.

David Cope is spending 8 days in Lapland on his research project. He left on 19th February for Pallastunturi, where he will be exploring the national park on skis, interviewing commune leaders and residents, and - if all this leaves time - doing some writing.

Seven candidates have applied for the professionship of business economics in the Department. The last day for submitting applications was 15th February.

Aarne Reunala and Ilpo Tikkanen will be in Jyväskylä on Monday, 28th February, where they will be presenting the results of their research into the promotion of private forestry among non-farmer forest owners to a meeting of Keski-Suomi District Forestry Board.

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### Time-budgeting

The time-budget scheme introduced in the Institute last month has been taken one step further in the Department. Under the Institute scheme, personnel are required to record the number of days or parts of days spent each month on different types of work within main broad categories. The majority of the work done in the Department, for example, falls in the five main categories of forest balance, social economics, business economics, marketing and general, with minor categories to cover international activities, education, holidays, illness, etc.

Starting this month, the personnel of the Forest Economics Department are having to record the number of hours spent each day on each type of work, with the work categories further broken down into individual research projects. This will allow a detailed analysis of costs and expenditure to be made, which will be useful for planning purposes.

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### Beads of sweat

The Institute has inaugurated a keep-fit competition this month, lasting the whole year apart from three months in the summer. Personnel are issued with forms on which a cross is marked for every day they do at least half-an-hour's unbroken exercise. Certain types of exercise have more rigorous requirements: to gain a point from walking, you have to do at least 3 km; for ski-ing at least 5 km, cycling 10 km, rowing 1 km and swimming 300 m. The competition is among personnel and departments and each cross counts as one point. The scheme has been named "Operation beads of sweat."

Everybody has the chance to gain one point on 25th February, when the Institute has its ski-ing day at the Ruotsinkylä Experiment Station. Those who don't want to ski can go and walk. Skiers should take their own skis with them, walkers need only their shoes.

Within the Department, Lasse Heikinheimo has been pushing "Aerobic", a method of getting fit developed by Kenneth E. Cooper for airmen in the United States. You test your condition by seeing how far you can run in 12 minutes, and choose a training programme according to whether your condition is very bad (up to 1.6 km in 12 minutes), bad (1.6 - 2 km), fairly good (2 - 2.4 km), good (2.4 - 2.8 km) or very good (over 2.8 km). Lasse tried the test and found he came in the second to lowest group. He intends to try and reach the fourth group, but when asked by the editor if he'd started training yet he replied, "Well, actually, no. I've been feeling rather tired this week."

Aarne Reunala and Hannu Vehviläinen, meanwhile, are looking for volunteers to play ice hockey with them after work on Thursday evenings.

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Hanged or beheaded?

We thought that there was no death penalty in Finland, but it seems we were wrong. The 1970 handbook of the Central Forestry Board "Tapio" (Helsinki, 1971) has on page 132 a table entitled "Number of officials and their execution days from 1966 to 1970." Perhaps, to paraphrase Voltaire, they need to execute a few foresters now and again in order to encourage the others.

Real Finns and artificial Finns

According to Terho Huttunen, those who stay at a party until all the wine has gone are real Finns; those who leave before the end are artificial Finns.

Terho, of course, has a reputation to keep up. His motto for the week is: "Too much is too much; moderation is too little."

## Newsletter distribution: this issue

Department	40
Finland (including rest of Institute)	125
Abroad	<u>155</u>
	320

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