

# The New Zealand Institute of Foresters

## Annual Meeting

The third annual general meeting of the Institute was held at Wellington on Thursday, 24th April. The annual report and balance sheet were read and adopted. These showed a total membership of 33 as at 31st March, 1930, while the cash reserve fund had been considerably augmented during the year. Three notices of motion were before the meeting, one in connection with the nomination of officers, one with the election of Council, and the third with student membership. As all three motions had been received late by the Secretary, no action involving an amendment to the Constitution could be taken by the meeting. The matters were discussed, however, and recommendations made to the incoming Council and to the 1931 annual meeting. The question of membership, opened by the third notice of motion, was then gone into more fully, particularly in regard to the requirement of a thesis before transfer to full membership. (Clauses 8b, and 7c.) After full discussion, it was decided that the present rules were equitable and adequate, and that no recommendation be made toward any change.

It was resolved that a seal be prepared for the Institute, the design to be embodied from native flora. Suggestions were called for from members, and a committee given power to act.

The officers elected for the ensuing year were:—President, Mr. C. E. Foweraker; Vice-President, Mr. F. W. Foster; Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. F. E. Hutchinson.

The following applications for admission and transfer were passed by the Admission Board:—

Associate Membership: Messrs. A. F. Clark, F. J. Field, W. H. Jolliffe, E. V. Stewart.

Student Membership: Messrs. G. H. Hocking, C. T. Sando, M. R. Skipworth, H. Z. Collier, H. C. Wickett, P. S. Whitehead.

Transfer from Student to Associate Membership: Mr. L. J. Dumbleton.

A professional paper, "A Note on the Height Growth of Kauri Seedlings and Small Saplings," was read and discussed. This paper, with abstract of discussion, appears below.

A postal ballot for members of Council for the ensuing year was held immediately after the annual meeting, and resulted in the election of Messrs. W. T. Morrison and C. M. Smith for the North Island, and D. Tannock and R. G. Robinson for the South Island.

A communication from the President issued on 9th May to all members asked for suggestions re disposal of funds, and policy in regard to honorary membership, as a guide to the formulation of a policy by the Executive. Suggestions already received are the giving of prizes to forestry students, the formation of a central forestry library, the publication of professional papers, and the careful husbanding of the capital reserve to provide for future activities. These and other matters will be brought before the 1931 meeting for confirmation.

The President also asked that all members make an effort to present suitable professional papers for discussion at the 1931 meeting.

Five suggested designs for a seal were received, the Committee deciding on a design embodying a fruiting spray of rimu, with a mountain background, submitted by Miss Sutherland.

A number of applications for admission to the Institute were received by the Secretary soon after the 1930 meeting. These were circulated among the Admission Board, as a result of which the President has declared the following elected as from the beginning of the current year:—Associate Membership: Messrs. C. Biggs, State Forest Service, Auckland; V. T. Fail, Afforestation Proprietary,

Ltd., Taupo; F. H. Grace, Westport Coal Co., Westport; J. Johnson, State Forest Service, Waipoua Forest Experiment Station, Dargaville; A. N. Perham, Wellington Water Supply Board; F. J. Perham, State Forest Service, Invercargill; and H. Roche, State Forest Service, Hanmer Springs.

The first application for the recognition of a Local Section of the Institute was received by the Secretary on 9th June, signed by ten members in and near Christchurch, and asking for recognition as the Christchurch Local Section. At the formative meeting, it was arranged to hold three meetings a year,

at each of which a subject of practical forestry import was to be presented and thoroughly discussed. Local officers chosen for the current year were Messrs. Foweraker, Chairman, and Hutchinson, Secretary. The first regular meeting was held on 25th July at Canterbury College, when the question of forests and their relation to flooding, with special reference to Canterbury, was discussed. An abstract of the discussion is given below.

The Secretary of the Institute is compiling a register of all members, as required by the by-laws. He asks that all members notify him of any change of address or official position.

## *A Note on the Height-Growth of Kauri Seedlings and Small Saplings*

(F. W. Foster)

[A paper read before the third annual meeting of the Institute.]

The rate of growth in height of kauri seedlings and small saplings in parks and gardens is generally known to be frequently quite rapid, and this is only to be expected under such good soil conditions. But so far as the writer is aware, nothing has been recorded regarding height growth-rate under natural conditions.

The present note does not purport to deal with the numbers of seedlings per acre, the intention being to record certain growth phenomena observed on a number of young kauri over a period of four years.

In early spring, 1925, twenty kauri seedlings and saplings were tagged, pegged and measured for height in inches and tenths. The kauri are growing on either side of an old bush-track near the Waipoua River, North Auckland, and are situated within a few yards of each other. The track was once well opened, and the trees and shrubs associated with the kauri are those of the edge of the kauri forest, such as manuka, mingimingi, maireire, hangehange, rangiora, punga, rewawea, small tanekaha, and taraire. The highest of the adjacent trees is 26 feet, but the mean height of trees and scrub is approximately 6 feet. The soil is clay, the aspect westerly, and the kauri themselves are well

sheltered from wind. The kauri receive a good deal of overhead light and also of transverse light, and though eleven of them are growing under and around a punga, even these are not unduly shaded. Nine kauri in association with small trees and scrub that do not cast much shade, exhibit twice the rate of growth of eleven that are partly shaded by the punga, but the phenomena below described are common to the kauri growing under both these conditions.

Each year the kauri were measured before growth commenced in spring, and also at other periods.

In 1925 the kauri ranged from 25.0 inches to 98.4 inches, the mean height being 52.2 inches. In 1929 the range was from 33.2 inches to 121.7 inches, and the mean height 67.0 inches. The mean annual height increment was 3.7 inches, or 7.1 per cent.

**Intermittent Growth.**—An interesting result is that each year some of the kauri did not increase at all in height. So far as the writer is aware, this phenomenon is not found in large seedlings and small saplings of any introduced conifers, except in cases of injury. Of the twenty kauri, only four increased in height in each year, two in the open and two under shaded conditions. One sapling 98