

RETIREMENT

Alick Lindsay Poole

A. L. Poole, B.For.Sc., M.Sc., N.D.H., C.B.E., F.L.S., F.R.S. N.Z., retired as Director-General of Forests on 29 January 1971.

Mr Poole was born in Gisborne in 1908 and was educated at Kings College, Auckland. He is one of the few foresters who graduated from the Auckland School of Forestry (1926-30). His M.Sc. was conferred by Victoria University in 1948 for a thesis — "The flowering relationships of New Zealand southern beeches". He also holds a Diploma in Horticulture.

Mr Poole joined the State Forest Service, as it was then known, in 1931, at Rotorua, and was transferred successively to Wellington and to Hanmer and Balmoral Forests in Canterbury. From 1937 to 1940 he was on the staff of the Plant Research Bureau at Palmerston North (Botany Division, DSIR). On the outbreak of war he was commissioned in the 15th N.Z. Forestry Company, 2nd NZEF, and went with them to Britain. He served as Scientific Liaison Officer in London from 1941 until 1945 and was involved in research relevant to the war effort in many parts of the British Isles. Later he served with the Forest and Timber Control Section of the British Military Government in Germany during which time he came into close contact with German foresters and forest practice. The principal tasks of the section were to attend to timber supplies and to reconstruct the German Forest Service.

Mr Poole returned to New Zealand in 1947 and was appointed, first, Assistant Director of the Botany Division, DSIR, and then Director in 1949. In 1951 he was appointed to the N.Z. Forest Service and worked for the next ten years as Assistant Director. During that time he showed a particular interest in the conservational aspects of forestry, especially the work of the Forest and Range Experiment Station, and in wildlife control. He wrote several papers on general forestry topics and made official visits to Europe, South Africa and Japan. His study tour to Europe was made with the objective of examining current trends in forest management, administration and legislation relative to protection forests. In 1960 he led the N.Z. delegation to the ECAFE/FAO Conference on Pulp and Paper Development in Asia and the Far East, held in Tokyo.

In 1961 Mr Poole succeeded A. R. Entrican as Director-General of Forests. During his term of office there have been many advances in the timber trade and in forestry in New Zealand. Some of the most notable are: development of the log trade with Japan; introduction of long-term planning in forestry — the Forestry Development Conference in 1969 resulted in the establishment of a permanent Forest Development Council and recommended a target of more than doubling the acreage of pine forest in New Zealand by 1990; relaxation of controls over public access to State Forests and the creation of Forest Parks; re-establishment of the Canterbury School of Forestry; an increasing accent on conservational forestry and attention to the need to maintain an effective

tive vegetational cover on mountain lands; and the provision of new buildings for the Forest Research Institute. Less publicized, but not less important, has been the involvement of New Zealand in international forestry. Mr Poole has attended and participated in a considerable number of international meetings and congresses and has assisted in FAO projects. He has also permitted and encouraged N.Z. Forest Service experts to undertake advisory and other assignments for FAO and under the Colombo Plan.

His efforts as Director-General of Forests were rewarded in the 1971 New Year's Honours List with the award of a C.B.E.

Mr Poole has published a considerable number of papers, some on New Zealand beeches and beech taxonomy, several on forest management in New Zealand, others on such diverse subjects as the control of ragwort and the vegetation of Fiordland, and he has participated in the publication of several important books. Particular mention should be made of *Trees and Shrubs in New Zealand*, illustrated so attractively by Nancy Adams, and *Wild Animals in New Zealand*, containing the outstanding animal photographs of John Johns.

At various times Mr Poole has been President of the Wellington Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand, the New Zealand Institute of Foresters, the New Zealand Ecological Society, and the Wellington Botanical Society. His election as Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 1962 recognized his original contributions to scientific knowledge.

Appointment as Chairman of the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council ensures that Mr Poole will remain a public figure and will be actively connected with forestry. We wish him well in his new career.