

centralized district management structure. As an example, in the Hawkes Bay district the 43 staff who are currently living on the four forest stations will be reduced to 12.

Economic benefits of the Corporation's approach are obvious as the duplication of management and servicing functions which currently exist on each station within a district can be eliminated. Improved road and telecommunications also have made forest stations far more accessible than at the time of their inception.

Economic merits of reducing staff numbers on stations offer little consolation however to the people who find they have not secured a position. These people have real concerns about their situation, especially in relation to their job marketability outside of a forestry-related occupation, the adjustment to an urban environment which a new job may require and finding housing, which on station is generally provided by the Forest Service.

A question which many Forest Service staff have asked themselves recently is how marketable are my skills outside my chosen forestry career?

For many, initial enquiries have not been encouraging. Although opportunities do exist, potential positions are often in an indoor environment, or lack the variety and remuneration that a career in the Forest Service has had to offer.

A number of staff are in the mid 40-50s age group where they are too young to retire but are often passed over by a prospective employer in favour of a younger person with a longer career life.

The uncertainty of their employment situation has had a noticeable effect on staff. Initially there was dismay and anger expressed at the nature and size of the changes that were being made to the Forest Service.

This was followed by a drop in morale and depression as individuals became aware of how the changes affected them personally coupled with the uncertainty of their futures.

Recently there is growing optimism among staff who have been appointed to the new organizations. Others have become resigned to the prospect of early retirement or of pursuing alternative employment options. Others are experiencing anxiety and distress as they and their families face what they see as bleak, uncertain futures.

Undoubtedly the majority of staff who are displaced will find alternative employment if they are prepared to relocate or are willing to accept employment in a position that may initially be quite alien to them. Provision is being made by the State Services Commission, the Government employing body, to assist staff in this area.

Many staff do not realize that they have positive skills which can be useful for a wide range of employment opportunities — a stable work record, flexibility and adaptability, ability to organize people and

## An impressive 50-year record — A.P. Thomson

Young Priestley (A.P.) Thomson, hot off the press from the short-lived Christchurch forestry school, was based in Palmerston North with the State Forest Service in 1936. He succeeded in having two articles published in the *Journal of Forestry* that year (Vol. 4 [11].) One discussed the recovery of native forest in the Mangakao and Ohau valleys of the Tararua following severe storm damage and the other noted the impact of gale-force winds on various exotic tree species. These were the first of a veritable flood of articles which Priestley has had published in the journal over the years.

In addition to its abundance his writing has been especially notable for its diversity — forest layout and survey design, scientific reservation, plantation forestry, forest utilization, pulp and paper industrial development, marketing, multiple use forestry, comparative economics of farming and forestry — space precludes a more exhaustive tabulation. Last year, 50 years after he first featured in the journal, Priestley penned a two-part series on the exploits of his distinguished grandfather (Vol. 30 [1]: 18–27, and Vol. 30 [2]: 186–193). G.M. Thomson, notable scientist turned politician, played an influential role in mobilizing scientific opinion and in persuading Parliament to embody some rudimentary forest conservation principles in forest legislation.

Priestley's involvement with the Institute has not been confined just to occupying journal space. He did a stint as editor between 1955 and 1958, and is currently a member of the editorial board of this publication. He remains very active in forestry circles. Last year he participated in several forums debating Government's environmental administration restructuring proposals, and delivered a paper to a seminar which examined future forestry prospects for the East Cape region, (see Vol. 31 [3]: 10–11). Already this year he has chaired forestry sessions at the 56th Australian and New Zealand Association for the advancement of Science (ANZAAS) conference.

manage budgets to name a few — though whether the same job satisfaction in alternative employment is achieved remains to be seen.

For those staff who have secured positions in the new organizations there are exciting challenges ahead. Those who have not been successful will need the support of friends and colleagues in the months ahead as they plan for their futures and seek new career options.

S.G. Chandler



Mr Priestley Thomson

When he finds a moment or two to spare he is likely to be tending his native forest corner at home in Khandallah, Wellington, or having a roll-up at the local bowling club. It is doubtful whether any other person had had such a long, continuous and distinguished involvement with the journal. Well done, Priestley, and long may it continue.

J. Halkett

### CHAIR IN FOREST MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

The School of Forestry is seeking an internationally recognized scientist for its Chair in Forest Management and Policy. The chair, endowed with \$1 million by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, provides funding for a professorship and associated research program.

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The School of Forestry offers academic programs to the master of science level. Facilities include a regional library, extensive forest properties, computer networks, the Centre for the Application of Resources Information Systems (CARIS), a scientific instrumentation laboratory, recently renovated forestry teaching and research laboratories, and a new forest biology research institute.

The successful applicant will be expected to carry a moderate teaching load, develop a strong research program in forest management and policy, and interact with all sectors of the forest community.

In compliance with Canadian immigration requirements, this advertisement is directed to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada. Applications should be sent before March 15, 1987 to: Dr. A.J. Kayll, R.F.P., Director, School of Forestry, Lakehead University, THUNDER BAY, Ontario, Canada, P7B 5B1.

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