

# The Society of American Foresters

## An Historical Summary

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THE autumn of 1950 marks the rounding out of five decades in the life of the Society of American Foresters. This anniversary is an appropriate occasion on which to look back over the history of the organization and refresh our memories as to the part the Society has played in the development of forestry in the United States. The record is significant.

That the year 1900 was the birth year of the Society of American Foresters was not a matter of chance. Rather, the founding of the Society was one of a series of events in the last decade of the nineteenth century which, working together, inaugurated a new phase in the development of the forestry movement in the United States. That phase resulted from, and was distinguished by, the fact, which had not been true earlier, that men trained for the practice of forestry as a profession were becoming available. These men were few in number but they had grasped the vision of what was required. Likewise they had the will to bring it to pass.

Taken as a whole the situation at the turn of the century was favorable to the advance of forestry. During his twelve years of service as chief of the Division of Forestry, from 1886 to 1898, Dr. Bernhard E. Fernow had made a deeper impression than was at that time realized. The campaign of popular education begun a quarter of a century earlier was bearing fruit. Inspired originally by men like Carl Schurz, George P. Marsh, and Franklin B. Hough public interest in forestry had been awakened to a considerable degree and was spreading rapidly. To promote better understanding of forestry was a task at which the American Forestry Association was hard at work. The organized bodies of the scientific men of the Nation had taken a firm stand behind forestry, and on several occasions had backed desirable legislation.

Most important of all, Congress had enacted two laws basic to the support of national forests. Under the act of 1891, authorizing the creation of forest reserves, more than forty million acres had been

set apart from the public domain by the proclamations of three Presidents. The Administration Act of 1897 had been passed, even if as yet it was not efficiently operative.

At the head of the Division of Forestry in the U. S. Department of Agriculture a young and vigorous forester had just taken hold. Equipped by European training, Gifford Pinchot brought to his work zeal and enthusiasm, coupled with the gifts of foresight and common sense and unquestionably of leadership. His offers of advice and assistance, made in 1898 to owners of forest land, had aroused widespread response. For two successive years the appropriations for the Division of Forestry had almost doubled in amount. But even this did not make it possible to meet all the new opportunities. Forestry was indeed moving from the office and lecture platform out into the woods.

Looking back we see the year 1900 as a day of small things. As to personnel it was. In the whole country there were then less than a dozen men who had received professional instruction in forestry abroad. Several of the small staff of the Division of Forestry had not at that time attended a forestry school, although practically all

were college-bred men. In the United States professional education in forestry had just started. The College of Forestry at Cornell was in its third year. The first graduate, Ralph C. Bryant, had received the initial degree that June. Dr. Schenck's Master School at Biltmore dated back no further. The Yale Forest School, established under endowment from the Pinchot family, had opened its doors that autumn.

The problem was how to bring to pass what a few men saw needed to be done. As a member of the committee of the National Academy of Sciences set up to study the forest lands of the public domain, Mr. Pinchot had seen clearly the necessity of a broad national program of forestry. He realized that to carry such a program forward successfully, men trained in forestry were required. Enthusiasm and team work were essential. Even more so were high standards and the establishment of forestry on a firm foundation, on a level of dignity equal to that of the other professions. It was from Pinchot's concept of what forestry should be and how its work should be administered that the Society of American Foresters sprang. His associates were actuated by his zeal and inspired by his dynamic personality. As has often been said, Forestry became to them a Cause. Because of this the impossible had for them no terrors.

Such was the background on November 30, 1900 when seven men assembled at the call of Gifford Pinchot in his office as forester on the third floor in the east wing of the old Main Building of the Department of Agriculture, now long since only a memory. From the brief minutes kept by Henry S. Graves, secretary pro tem, it appears that "the object of the

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meeting was to discuss the feasibility of organizing a Society of American Foresters." The next entry is, "All those present were in favor of the organization of such a Society." Mr. Pinchot was elected temporary chairman and Mr. Graves temporary secretary. "A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the Society be known as The Society of American Foresters." Authorized by another motion the chair appointed Messrs. Graves, Price, and Hosmer to make "recommendations as to the complete organization of this Society." the meeting then adjourned, subject to the call of the chair, at such time as the committee was ready to report. Present at the meeting were Gifford Pinchot, Henry S. Graves, Overton W. Price, Edward T. Allen, William L. Hall, Ralph S. Hosmer, and Thomas H. Sherrard.

On the morning of December 13, 1900 the same group met again, unanimously adopted the constitution submitted by its committee, and then immediately adjourned to noon of the same day to reconvene in the office of Frederick H. Newell, head of the U. S. Reclamation Service. The place is significant, for in later years Pinchot and Newell were to be recognized as Theodore Roosevelt's chief lieutenants in the Conservation Movement.

At this third meeting the following officers were elected: president, Gifford Pinchot; vice president, Henry S. Graves; secretary, George B. Sudworth; treasurer, Ralph S. Hosmer. Four standing committees were set up: An executive committee of seven, including the officers, with O. W. Price as chairman; and committees on admissions, G. B. Sudworth, chairman; meetings, R. S. Hosmer, chairman; and publications, E. T. Allen, chairman. Following strictly democratic procedure those proposed for each committee were voted on separately.

Then followed the election to active membership in the Society

of the following eight foresters, some resident elsewhere than in Washington: E. M. Griffith, Professor James W. Toumey, Dr. C. A. Schenck, Dr. B. E. Fernow, Professor Filibert Roth, F. E. Olmsted, George B. Sudworth, and Horace B. Ayres. Including the original seven charter members, the Society thus started with an active membership of fifteen. And under Article 3, Section 2, the Constitution read: "Active members shall be professional foresters of achievement."

The final business was the election of thirteen Associate members. Their names may well be listed in that among them were most of those in the United States who at that time ranked as leaders in the forestry movement. These original Associate members were: Honorable James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture, Theodore Roosevelt, Governor of New York, Colonel William F. Fox of New York, General C. C. Andrews of Minnesota, Mr. F. H. Newell, Dr. Henry Gannett, Dr. Arnold Hague, Dr. Charles D. Walcott, Dr. Frederick V. Coville, Professor J. A. Holmes, Mr. Edward A. Bowers, Mr. Otto J. J. Luebker, and Mr. George P. Whittlesey.

The purpose of the Society was summed up in Article 2 of the Constitution: "The object of this Society shall be to further the cause of forestry in America by fostering a spirit of comradeship among foresters; by creating opportunities for a free interchange of views upon forestry and allied subjects; and by disseminating a knowledge of the purpose and achievements of forestry."

Although now expressed in other and broader terms, these three basic objectives stand today as at the start as the guiding principles of the Society. For fifty years they have proved a secure foundation; one that may safely be trusted to continue to serve the Society well in days to come. With this policy as its flag, and its crew ready, the ship was safely launched. It floated on a favorable tide.

### The First Decade 1901-1910

In tracing the story of the Society, I have found it desirable to summarize the main happenings by periods of varying length, with comments on certain significant developments in policy, and finally to emphasize some of the more important accomplishments for which the Society may justly claim credit during its first fifty years.

Naturally enough, in its earlier years the Society was very closely bound up with the Division and Bureau of Forestry—after 1905 the Forest Service. Until 1908, except for the faculties of the forestry schools and a few technically trained men in the forestry departments of some of the eastern states, practically all those entitled to be called foresters were in the employ of the federal government, for the most part with headquarters in Washington.

There, too, for each of several winters, beginning with that of 1899-1900, was a considerable group of young college men, working for the Division of Forestry. These men had been student assistants during the previous summers in the large field parties that were needed to gather working plan data. Subsequently most of these men were graduated from one or another of the schools of forestry. In those early winters they worked as computers. The stipend paid them, while in Washington, was \$40 a month. Although not eligible to membership in the Society, they were welcome at its open meetings.

The activities of the Society in its earlier years consisted largely of meetings at weekly intervals from autumn to spring. Executive meetings, held once a month, were open only to members. At the open meetings carefully prepared papers were read by members or invited guests, followed by discussion.

In the Society, as in the Division of Forestry, the first need in 1900 was to build up an *esprit de corps*. In this development the Society played a large part. From the start

Mr. Pinchot opened his home to its meetings. Under the delightful auspices of 1615 Rhode Island Avenue was thus inaugurated what came to be known by foresters, and somewhat enviously by others, as "The Baked Apple Club." For it was Mr. Pinchot's custom, after the paper of the evening and the discussion, to invite the group to adjourn to the spacious dining room, panelled high in black walnut, where an ample supply of baked apples and ginger bread, with large pitchers of milk, frequently refilled, was always ready.

Many jokes have come down about the "Baked Apple Club," but to those of the student assistant group, the anticipation of one good meal a week went far to account for the popularity of these gatherings. As all who attended them remember they did much to foster "a spirit of comradeship."

What was also important to the younger members of the Society was the opportunity to meet outstanding persons in the scientific and other branches of the federal government. To this end Mr. Pinchot made it a point to invite as his guests many with whom the young foresters could have come in contact in no other way. High ranking public officers, such as F. H. Newell, E. A. Bowers, C. Hart Merriam of the Biological Survey, Henry Gannett and Bailey Willis of the Geological Survey, and that all round scientist, W J McGee, were frequent attendants. Among the speakers in 1900-1901 was Joseph A. Holmes of North Carolina, and in 1901-1902 James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture.

Without question the most important of the early meetings was the one in the evening of March 26, 1903 when Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, appeared before the Society. Breaking a tradition that the President does not speak in private houses, he gave the foresters suggestions, straight from the shoulder, as to how they should carry on. That address is the initial article in Volume 1, Number 1 of the *Pro-*

*ceedings* of the Society, May 1905.

After 1903 the place of some of the meetings shifted to the Atlantic Building, 930 F Street, N. W., which since March 1901 had become the home of the Bureau of Forestry, first on three floors, afterwards the whole building. Some of the older members recall meetings at Mr. Pinchot's home in later years, but the baked apple parties belong to the early days. Subsequently, after the formation of the Washington Section, its meetings were for a time held at the homes of the members, then at the Cosmos Club.

Somewhat in common with Cotta's dictum, that thinnings should be made early and often, has been the Society's treatment of its Constitution. It was first amended in 1904 and again in 1908. By these changes the Executive Committee came to consist of five active members, elected annually by letter ballot, with the right to choose its own chairman. In 1908 the Committee on Publications became the Editorial Board, with nine members.

The list of members published in 1907 shows 97 Active and 48 Associate members. Among those who had shown conspicuous interest in forestry who were added to the latter grade in the early years were George P. Ahern, Charles E. Bessey, W. H. Brewer, Morris K. Jessup, Charles Sprague Sargent, and two ex-Presidents of the United States, Benjamin Harrison and Grover Cleveland.

The first Honorary member of the Society, Sir Dietrich Brandis, was elected in 1903. Fully worthy of recognition as the preeminent professional forester of the British Empire, Sir Dietrich also had a relation to the United States which should not be forgotten. It is true that he never came to this country, but as the teacher and mentor of Pinchot, Graves, and Price his influence was potent in helping at the start to shape our American forestry policy. Look up the old *Proceedings* (Vol. 3, No. 1) and read Pinchot's tribute to Brandis.

The establishment of the *Pro-*

*ceedings* in May 1905 was a highly significant step. It provided a means of disseminating and of making of record the papers read before the Society. After 1907 its columns were opened to contributions. Anyone who wishes to know what subjects were then before the Society and how they were treated should consult an article by Barrington Moore in the *Forestry Quarterly* (Vol. 12) in which he summarizes the papers read from 1905 to 1912 which later appeared in the *Proceedings*. It has historical value.

The *Proceedings* appeared irregularly at first, one, then two issues a year, until 1914 when it became a quarterly. It was handled at the start by the Editorial Board with Henry S. Graves as chairman. In 1910 Raphael Zon became the editor. Gradually notes on Society affairs were added. But not until 1911 did the secretary of the Society publish an annual report and it was several years later before the annual reports of the president began to be printed.

During the heyday of the Conservation Movement, from 1907 to 1910, it is of some interest to note that conservation as such is conspicuous by its absence from the printed records of the Society. Perhaps because as individuals and Forest Service men they were occupied with conservation matters elsewhere, the members preferred to keep the Society meetings strictly for papers in the domain of forestry, pure if not simple. But certainly in those years the Conservation Movement revolved about "G.P." and the Forest Service.

Mr. Pinchot remained as president of the Society until 1909, when he was succeeded by Overton W. Price. Perhaps this was in part for the same reason that during the years when Pinchot was especially engaged with conservation matters, Price, as associate forester, practically ran the Forest Service. It is of interest to remember that, as chairman of the Committee on New Work, in 1911, Price made a strong plea to the Society to "take, as a body of professional

foresters, a definite and public position on vital national questions within the field of forestry." Although labored for by many of his successors in that office it was not until 1931 that a comprehensive statement was finally formulated, approved by the Society by letter ballot, and made public.

The fact that Mr. Pinchot was returned to the office of president in 1910 and 1911 may be taken as an expression of the way the foresters reacted to the dramatic incidents of the so-called Pinchot-Ballinger episode. Their confidence in his successor as forester is shown by the election of Henry S. Graves as president of the Society in 1912.

### The Second Decade 1911-1920

In its second decade the Society developed rapidly. Its total membership nearly doubled. Its official publication grew in volume and quality and took its place as a recognized scientific journal. Through its Sections the Society became a nation-wide organization. The reports of special committees added to its prestige. And with the backing of the Society a program was got under way which was later to result in placing professional education in forestry on a sane and stable foundation.

The Society has always taken a deep interest in the schools of forestry. It has consistently stood behind efforts to strengthen their curricula and to improve their standing. Thus, while the first national conference on education in forestry in the United States was not strictly under its auspices the Society may justly claim part of the credit. The initial meeting was called by Mr. Pinchot, in Washington, in December 1909. A committee of five was set up to report on the standardization of instruction in forestry. All the members were influential members or officers of the Society. The report of that committee, in 1912, formulating the standardized curriculum, was a "classic" contribution. It stabilized the schools at a

time when such action was vital. It had other far-reaching effects.

Also that report paved the way for the second national conference on education in forestry held in 1920. And that in turn led to the studies of the schools of forestry which, beginning in 1929, were made directly under the wing of the Society. Furthermore, it was a recommendation of the conference of 1920 which resulted in the establishment in 1934 of the Society's Division of Education, the first by ten years of the ten Divisions of 1950.

From another corner of the field of education is this incident from 1911, a case where an address made to the Society was put to immediate and widespread practical use. The author was William B. Greeley. The title "Better Methods of Fire Control." For distribution to the forest rangers the Forest Service bought 1,500 copies from the Society.

In the long campaign which preceded the passage of the Weeks Law in 1911 the Society had a part. One tangible expression of this is a *Bibliography of the Southern Appalachian and White Mountain Regions* prepared by Miss Helen E. Stockbridge, librarian of the Forest Service. Printed in the *Proceedings* (Vol. VI, No. 2) it was distributed in pamphlet form.

Because one function of the Weeks Law was to conserve the navigability of navigable streams much interest was taken at this time in problems pertaining to the management of watersheds. Following the appearance of Zon's authoritative report *Forests and Water in the Light of Scientific Investigation*, the Society formally endorsed his findings as expressing its own position.

In 1913 the practice was adopted of referring to all voting members, on referendum, all questions that required Society action. Accordingly since that time these pronouncements of the Society are the formal expressions of the considered opinion of a majority of its members.

In 1914, sixteen of the gentle-

men who had been elected Associate members in the early days were elevated to the rank of Honorary member. Distinguished foresters from the United States and other countries have from time to time been added to that roll.

Following the transfer of the forest reserves to the custody and care of the Forest Service in 1905, and especially after the creation of the districts and the consequent decentralization of the Forest Service that began in 1908, changes occurred in the Society. By 1911 the number of active members had grown to 213. Scattered in the field as these men were, and out of close touch with Washington, it is not surprising that questions arose in the minds of some, even more than they have since, as to what value, after all, the Society was to the individual. It was suggested that the solution of this problem lay in having local Sections. The idea found favor. The constitution was so amended. The Section at Missoula, Mont., was the first to be established, in 1912. Next came St. Paul in 1913, and Portland in 1915. Others followed, especially in the West. It was not until 1918 that the New York Section was set up, with Madison in 1919, and in 1920 New England. By the end of the decade twelve Sections had been established.

With the creation of the Washington Section in the autumn of 1916 the meetings in that city ceased to be regarded as those of the parent Society. Instead there developed increasing interest in the annual meetings, which soon took on the general form in which we know them today. But the headquarters of the Society remained in Washington, at the Atlantic Building. Partly as a matter of convenience it was the custom in those days to elect as secretary some man in the Forest Service who was located in Washington. A note in the secretary's report for 1915 announces proudly that the employment of a permanent file clerk had been authorized. The financial statement for that year

shows total receipts of \$1,918.53 and \$1,549.28 disbursements.

In 1914 was held the first meeting of the Society as a whole away from Washington. This occurred in May in Ithaca, N. Y., on the occasion of the dedication of the newly erected Forestry Building at Cornell University, happily renamed, in October 1922, Fernow Hall. The meeting was well attended. The important addresses, including one by Dr. Fernow, then president of the Society, were published by Cornell University, along with those given at the dedicatory exercises.

In August 1915 a successful open meeting was held in San Francisco, Calif., at the time of the Panama-Pacific Exposition, in conjunction with meetings of other kindred organizations. And in July 1916, in Asheville, N. C., a third was arranged as a part of the First Southern Forestry Congress.

The first annual meeting away from Washington occurred in New York City in January 1915. One of the main topics under discussion at the executive session was the reorganization of the classes of membership, a change which came about two years later. Dr. Fernow, as president, gave a stimulating address on how the aims and objects of the Society might be attained.

A tangible expression of the solidarity of its members was the adoption in 1915 of the Society's emblem. The custom of wearing the pin has been generally followed. Incidentally, it has undoubtedly helped to make the Society better known.

Recognition as an affiliated society of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1913 gave our group a place on its Council. Important developments have resulted from this connection, which has been consistently maintained, because it has permitted the representatives of the Society to have a voice in various matters of scientific interest. Since 1936, when 102 foresters had become Fellows of the A.A.A.S., the So-

ciety has had two delegates on the Council.

The custom of holding the annual meeting in conjunction with that of the A.A.A.S. was inaugurated at New York City in 1916 and continued regularly for several years and intermittently for a time thereafter.

Perhaps the most important single event in the history of the Society in its second decade was the amalgamation of the *Proceedings* of the Society and the *Forestry Quarterly* into the JOURNAL OF FORESTRY. This took effect in January 1917. The *Forestry Quarterly* was founded by Dr. Fernow in Ithaca in 1902 and was conducted largely under his personal auspices, although technically with the cooperation of an advisory board. It filled a very urgent need as a medium of publication for foresters and in some of its departments, especially the book reviews, it made accessible information not elsewhere available in English. Under Dr. Fernow's editorship it had maintained strict standards and gained recognition abroad as well as at home because of its high character.

As already noted, the *Proceedings of the Society of American Foresters* had become a quarterly in 1914 and had opened its pages to contributed articles. It also increasingly carried news about Society affairs, particularly as to membership matters, reports of the annual meetings, changes in the Constitution, and other affairs of Society interest. Both publications were having financial difficulties. It was believed that a combination would be mutually desirable, but being a problem with many angles it took considerable time to find a solution which met all the requirements.

This was finally done and the JOURNAL OF FORESTRY appeared in January 1917 as Vol. 15, No. 1, for it continued the volume numbers of the *Quarterly*. From 1917 to 1934, inclusive, the JOURNAL was published in eight numbers a year, with a break from June to September. Dr. Fernow continued

as editor-in-chief until 1922 with Raphael Zon, his trusted lieutenant, as managing editor. From 1923 to May 1928 Zon was editor.

It is impossible in a paragraph or two to try to tell what this technical magazine has meant to the Society and to the profession of forestry in America. That story is one which must be told elsewhere. But this may be said. Had the Society of American Foresters done nothing more than sponsor and carry on the JOURNAL, that alone would have justified its existence.

One of the greatest services rendered by the JOURNAL has been that under each of its editors its pages have been open to the free and unhampered expression of opinion. No matter how highly controversial some topics have become, contributions from either side have had equal place. And in the one or two instances where there were suggestions that some censorship might be in order, the reaction of the Society has been instantaneous and positive.

In the first issue of the new JOURNAL appeared the report of one of the special committees which have given prestige to the Society. This was Part I of the Report of the Committee on Terminology. Under the general direction of Dr. B. E. Fernow, this large group, subdivided into sections, had been at work since 1915. Its report standardized the definitions of terms in the technical vocabulary of foresters and produced a dictionary of lasting value. Part II, on terms used in the lumber industry, followed a year later. Reprinted together, the report was put on sale by the Society.

Through the years the JOURNAL has carried many worthy reports of special committees of the parent body or of its sections. In this brief summary only a few can even be mentioned. The findings and recommendations of its committees are, however, among the real accomplishments of the Society.

All through its history there have been times when there were grumblings, if not outspoken criti-

cism, that the Society lacked leadership and that it was not fulfilling its purpose. One of these occurred in the second decade. The root of the trouble lay in the requirements governing admission to the Society. Article 3 of the original constitution read "active members shall be professional foresters of achievement." That word, "achievement," continued to bother the officers for thirty years. Also questions like these demanded answers: Must a man be a graduate of a school of forestry to be a forester? And how were to be classed those who with perhaps but scant educational background had worked up by demonstrated ability to positions of administrative authority?

Earnest consideration of this whole problem was had for a three-year period, in the Sections, in the meetings of the Society, and in the JOURNAL. Finally in 1917 a referendum changed the constitution to make technical education the basis for initial membership. A new grade was created, that of Member, in an attempt to give priority to forestry school graduates, with the idea that after a probationary period Members should be advanced to Senior membership. But the door was still left open for those with less technical background. All former Active members became *ipso facto* Senior members. They only were entitled to vote.

This change in the constitution was an improvement although it did not solve the problem. It continued in effect, however, until 1928 when Members became Junior members and were accorded the right to vote. Still more significant changes regarding the rules defining membership were to come in 1935.

With the other changes in 1917 there was created the new grade of Fellow, with the purpose of recognizing outstanding achievement "in responsible directive positions or in distinctive individual work of a fruitful character." Only ten might be elected, from among the Senior members, in any one

year. The first group to be elected Fellows, in 1918, consisted of Messrs. Pinchot, Graves, Fernow, Roth, Zon, and Greeley.

For its internal administration the Society had at the start four officers and an Executive Committee, after 1904 of five Active members, all elected for one year. The duty of that committee was to run the business of the Society. It chose its own chairman. After a time it took over the duties of the committees on admissions and meetings. From 1915 until 1928, in the interest of securing continuity of policy, one member of the Executive Committee was elected each year, for a five year term. In 1917 the name was changed to the Council. The president of the Society became its chairman and the other officers were added as members, making the Council a body of nine. Finally in 1929 the Council took its present form, through the election of its eleven members for two-year terms under the plan of proportional representation. The custom of having one member of the Council charged with handling admissions dates from 1917.

Unless one has served on the Council it is difficult to realize the great amount of business that passes over the desks of its members. Scattered geographically as they are—with the chance of attending only one or two actual meetings a year—all this work has to be done by correspondence. This takes effort and consumes time. It is really amazing what has been accomplished under the handicaps which have faced every Council. The members of the Society owe in truth a deep debt of gratitude to those who have served in this way, for the duties involved have often entailed self-sacrifice and long hours of extra labor by those already carrying heavy loads.

Soon after the United States entered World War I in 1917, a rather large committee was set up with the idea of assembling from individual members of the Society information as to their special capabilities for different sorts of

war time service. This was done through questionnaires and personal contacts. The data so secured were turned over to the appropriate federal authorities. Being confidential, little about the committee's work appeared in the JOURNAL, but that it helped in connection with the raising of the "forestry regiments," and in other ways, is certain.

Another aspects of the work of the War Committee deserves mention, the census of standing timber in New York and New England which was carried on by its representatives working in connection with state and federal authorities. Had the armistice not come just when it did, wide use would have been made of these surveys. As it was the data collected were put to excellent service.

Note has been made that Gifford Pinchot served as president of the Society in 1910 and 1911 and Henry S. Graves in 1912. Following them, the presidents during this decade were William L. Hall, 1913; Dr. B. E. Fernow, 1914 and 1916; William B. Greeley, 1915; Filibert Roth, 1917 and 1918; Frederick E. Olmsted, 1919; and Ralph C. Bryant, 1920 and 1921. A full list of all the officers of the Society from 1900 to 1939 appeared in the directory of members in *S.A.F. Affairs* for July 1939 (Vol. 5, No. 7). That the names of all elective officers to 1950 may be easily available, such a list is reprinted elsewhere in this issue of the JOURNAL.

### A Word Between the Acts

At this point in the history of the Society it is desirable for a moment to step aside, as it were, and from an angle different from that of the chronicle consider certain changes which at that time were taking place in the organization.

The years around 1920 were significant ones in the Society's development. During its second decade the Society had been growing up. Soon it was really to come of age. From a small, compact

group of young men who had devotedly and unquestioningly followed a forceful leader, the Society had taken on a form of organization that was becoming more and more national in scope and independent in character.

While continuing to hold the Forest Service in deep regard, the members of the Society had come to know their own minds and to think for themselves. They had come to realize that in a professional society the dicta of official authority must yield to the personal freedom of judgment of the individual. In short, as one able observer of the Society expressed it, the early members had experienced "a process of intellectual release."

For this change in attitude there were two main reasons. First, the obvious one, that the original members of the Society had matured. Those who had entered the Society in the early years of the century were, around 1920, men in middle life. It was not to be expected that all should see everything alike, nor was it desirable that they should.

Second, with the development of forestry during the passing years there had resulted an expansion of the professional field which had inevitably led to diversity in points of view. In the beginning, as has been noted, the openings for professional foresters were mainly in the Forest Service, or, for a few, in teaching. Between 1910 and 1930 many additional opportunities for foresters developed; in other federal agencies, in the administrative offices of states, counties, and municipalities, in state extension work, in education, and increasingly in private employment, especially with the forest using industries.

All this made for breadth of vision. And that in turn helped to maintain the broad spirit of tolerance which has ever been one of the dominant characteristics of the Society. If one bears these things in mind the story of the progress of the Society takes on a broader and deeper meaning.

### The Years from 1919 to 1940

The next twenty years of the Society's history may be considered by intervals characterized by events rather than by time. 1919-1922, 1923-1933, 1934-1937, 1938-1940. Two of these were marked by striking incidents. The others by less dramatic happenings. Taken altogether this score of years saw the Society of American Foresters take the place visioned by its founders.

#### 1919 to 1922—A Period of Controversy

The years immediately following World War I were a period of readjustment. Many of the old standards had been upset. There was groping for new ones to take their place. The results of this unrest were experienced by the Society, as by other organizations, and had their influence in effecting changes that occurred in the ensuing years.

The prolonged and heated controversy in which the Society was involved from 1919 to 1922 had its origin, however, in another way. That came about through the reassertion of certain Forest Service policies which for a time had been quiescent. Because of the importance of the underlying issues a contest developed which became nation-wide in scope. The fight within the Society was only a part of the general altercation, but because of those involved it had special meaning.

To sharpen the outlines, it may be helpful to recall a bit of the antecedent background. In the early days of the Forest Service there had been set up what came to be known as the "Pinchot policies." One of these had to do with establishing a sound public policy in the matter of private timberlands. But the time for pressing it soon passed. From 1905 on until World War I the main job of the Forest Service was, first, to develop the national forests; later, to hold intact, as nearly as possible, the ground won in the early days.

Following the war the time

seemed ripe to force consideration of the problem of the regulation of private timberlands. The issue turned on what constituted a proper policy. At the two extremes among the contestants were, on the one hand, those who stood with Mr. Pinchot in demanding strict federal regulation of the private owner; on the other hand, certain industrial organizations which would not concede that any regulation whatsoever was either necessary or desirable. Between the two were all shades of intermediate opinion. For two years expressions pro and con filled the pages of all the forestry publications and the leading trade journals of the lumber and the paper industries.

As matters got under way Forest Devastation—always with a capital D—held the center of the stage. The conclusions based on the statistics in the so-called Capper Report of 1920 and in the Forest Service yearbook article "Timber: Mine or Crop?" were in the limelight. Those who favored regulation demanded drastic action.

In the case of the Society certain public statements set matters going. One was the aggressive declaration of the new president in 1919, Frederick E. Olmsted, that the time had come for the Society to take a definite position as a professional body and to assert itself. Then came the several addresses by Colonel Henry S. Graves, the forester, which started the campaign to set up and define the "minimum silvicultural requirements" deemed satisfactory in approved forestry practice. As all foresters will recall, this move finally resulted in the series of Forest Service bulletins issued under the caption *Timber Growing and Logging Practice* in the late twenties and early thirties.

To prepare a policy statement for the Society, President Olmsted appointed, early in 1919, a Committee for the Application of Forestry, with Gifford Pinchot as chairman. This became known and is often referred to as "the Pinchot Committee." Its report was sub-

mitted at the annual meeting of the Society held in New York City in January 1920. The gist of the recommendations was that "The national timber supply must be made secure (a) by forbidding the devastation of private forest lands, and (b) by the production of forest crops on public forests." To the report was appended an outline of suggested legislation to be enacted by Congress to provide strict mandatory regulations to be enforced by the federal government through the Forest Service.

This proposal at once precipitated heated discussion. A large group in the Society opposed this method of approach, holding that while some regulation was probably desirable it could still be achieved through cooperation, preferably under the auspices of the individual states. Criticism of the fact that reprints of the report had been given to the general public before being seen by members of the Society heightened the tension of that New York meeting.

The discussion continued, resulting after a time in the formation of two opposing factions among the foresters, led respectively by Mr. Pinchot and by Colonel William B. Greeley, who on April 15, 1920 had succeeded Colonel Graves as forester. Bills were introduced in Congress—the Capper bill and the Snell bill—which, as they were amended, came to embody the ideas and proposals of these two groups.

As between the two Society factions no agreement could be reached, nor even a clear cut estimate obtained as to the actual number of members lined up in either one. By vote of the New York meeting a letter ballot had been ordered on the various sections of the committee report. This vote was taken during the summer of 1920 and the results were announced in the October issue of the *JOURNAL* (Vol. 18, No. 6). For various reasons some members refrained from voting so that the number of ballots cast, 166, represented but 38 percent of the total voting membership of the Society. This number,

however, was not much below the percentage usual in annual elections. The count showed that a liberal majority of those who voted endorsed the sections of the report which recommended federal control.

Notwithstanding this fact there was no little criticism that the vote did not truly mirror the judgment of the whole Society. Consequently, at the annual meeting of the year 1920, also held in New York City, another vote was ordered, calling for an expression of preference as between the Capper bill (federal control) and the Snell bill (control by states). This vote was taken in March 1921. The total number voting was 304, with 109 for federal control and 195 for state control. But this also was believed to be inconclusive. So the deadlock continued.

Then in 1922 came the appointment of the Senate Committee on Reforestation, to investigate the whole question. At hearings held all over the country ample opportunity was given anyone who so desired to be heard. A mass of testimony was submitted. In 1924 that committee made its report. Its recommendations avoided all the controversial issues and instead stressed other points badly in need of attention on which practically all foresters were in agreement. These are embodied in the Clarke-McNary Act of 1924, justly hailed as one of the most significant of our basic national laws dealing with forestry.

In the Society the conflicting opinions were put on the shelf, where they were to remain another fifteen years. That the Society was stirred into greater activity during these years than it has ever been, before or since, there can be no question. This had a lasting effect in numerous ways, even if on the surface during the next few administrations things may have seemed to settle back into somewhat prosaic routine.

In connection with the passage by Congress of the Clarke-McNary Act, and later, in 1928, of the McSweeney-McNary Forest Research

Act, mention may be made of the National Forestry Program Committee, 1919-1928, which by a number of skillfully directed efforts, made at just the right times, aided materially in the enactment of both these laws, as well as of other useful legislation. Although not a committee of the Society, its most influential members were seven professional foresters all of whom were Society members. The name of each of these seven men appears on the list of Fellows of the Society. For an account of this committee and its work see the *JOURNAL OF FORESTRY* for September 1947 (Vol. 45, No. 9, pp. 627-645).

#### Advances and Adjustments 1923-1933

In 1920 Ralph C. Bryant succeeded Olmsted as president, for two terms, to be followed by E. A. Sherman in 1922, Ralph S. Hosmer in 1923, Walter Mulford in 1924, and Samuel T. Dana, for two terms, 1925 and 1926. Compared with the years when it was said "the lines are drawn," this period saw no spectacular developments. But the desire remained, apart from controversial points, to have the Society draw up and enunciate a statement of objectives. This problem had the earnest attention of successive presidents and councils. It was, however, not until 1931 that such a declaration was made.

As the Society grew in numbers—and by December 1923 the grand total was 982 members—the annual meetings took on greater importance. From 1921 to 1924 inclusive they were held in affiliation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, respectively in Toronto, Boston, Baltimore, and Washington. In 1925 the Society met in Madison, Wis., and between sessions inspected the Forest Products Laboratory. Philadelphia was the meeting place in 1926, again with the A.A.A.S., and in 1927, San Francisco. The success of this first annual meeting to be held on the West Coast started the custom now in effect of distributing the annual meetings over a wider geographical range.



There are certain advantages, especially for foresters engaged in research, in meeting with the A.A.A.S. On the other hand there are drawbacks that offset the benefits. For this reason the Society has in recent years met independently. However, and increasingly, groups of foresters have been in attendance at both summer and winter meetings of the A.A.A.S., in some cases joining with the Ecological Society, or with other closely related organizations.

In 1920 the grade of Corresponding member was set up and two foresters—one from France, one from India—were elected. Others have been added from time to time. From these contacts the Society has derived benefit.

More systematically to cultivate friendly relations with foresters in other countries, a standing Committee on International Relations was appointed in 1924. Informally carried on, the interchange of information that has followed better acquaintance has proved mutually beneficial.

In furtherance of this general idea several members of the Society attended an International Forestry Conference held in Stockholm in 1929 when the International Union of Forest Research Organizations was reorganized on a broader basis than had characterized a similar body which had functioned in Europe prior to World War I. Since 1930 the Society has had a continuous, if indirect, connection with the Union in that E. N. Munns has served steadily as a member of its Permanent Committee. In recent years other American foresters engaged in research have also been active in the work of the Union.

Perhaps the most useful service rendered by the Union to foresters in America is through the classified bibliographies of forestry literature which are now available for several of the European countries.

In Rome, in 1926 at the first International Forestry Congress to be held after World War I, a strong delegation of American foresters took an active part, under

the leadership of Samuel T. Dana, who that year was president of the Society. One feature of that meeting was the excellent team play which developed between the American and the British delegations. This helped to pave the way for keeping later Congresses on a broad and satisfactory foundation.

A somewhat unusual incident in 1925 was the acceptance of an offer by Charles Lathrop Pack, president of the American Tree Association, to give, for two successive years, a prize of \$500 for the best essay written by a member of the Society on a subject leading to the advancement of forestry. These competitions were duly held. Numerous essays were submitted. The award in 1925 was made to Jno. D. Guthrie, who wrote on "Public Relations in Forestry" and in 1926 to Ward Shepard for his essay on "The Necessity of Realism in Forest Propaganda."

In 1928, in a similar way, a prize of \$1,000 was offered by Gifford Pinchot for the best essay "describing the present situation and proposing a nation-wide remedy." Again Ward Shepard was the successful contestant. His topic was "Cooperative Control: A Proposed Solution of the Forest Problem."

Mention has been made earlier of the advantages to forestry which have accrued to the Society from having representatives on the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Intimate contacts with the outstanding scientific bodies of the nation have gone further, for in different capacities officers and members of the Society have served on or with committees of the Washington Academy of Science, the National Research Council, and the American Academy of Sciences. It is too long a story to go into all of this in detail. One example, however, is of outstanding interest.

As the result of a lecture given by Colonel William B. Greeley in 1924 the National Academy of Sciences set up a special committee to make "a critical inquiry into the status and needs of research in the sciences basic to forestry."

Under a liberal grant obtained from the General Education Board a survey of forest research organizations was undertaken by Doctors Irving W. Bailey and H. A. Spoehr which resulted in their stimulating book *The Role of Research in the Development of Forestry in North America* (Macmillan Co. New York, 1929).

Dean Graves was also associated with this study, his especial sphere being "the relations of education to research." His initial findings appeared in two articles in the JOURNAL in April and October, 1928 (Vol. 26, Nos. 4 and 6).

It was the hope of Dean Graves that this investigation could be extended to include, as well, a study of the schools of forestry. When this did not prove feasible approaches were made to the Carnegie Corporation of New York. These resulted in a grant of \$30,000 to the Society for this purpose.

Under this authority the Forest Education Inquiry was set up by the Society on July 1, 1929. Its purpose was "to aid in strengthening the foundations of the system of forest education in America." Dean Graves and Professor Cedric H. Guise were put in direct charge. For two years an exhaustive study was carried on. Every school of forestry in the United States was visited. Innumerable conferences were held with those employing foresters; questionnaires were filled out by the alumni of all the schools; masses of data were collected, tabulated, and analyzed. All phases of the problem were considered. The result was the book *Forest Education* by Graves and Guise, published in 1932 by the Yale University Press, under the auspices of the Society of American Foresters.

In the meanwhile the Society's Committee on Education also had been at work. It became the Division of Education in 1934. Since then its sessions have become a recognized part of the annual meetings. It was the first of the Divisions.

The years from 1927 to 1933 stand out because of internal adjustments within the Society made during the administrations of these men as President: R. Y. Stuart, for the year 1927, Ovid M. Butler for 1928, Paul G. Redington, then chief of the Biological Survey, who held office for three years, 1929 to 1931, and C. M. Granger for 1932 and 1933.

Following, as always, a period of discussion, the Constitution, which had undergone only minor changes since 1917, was once more amended, late in 1928, in various ways. The article governing membership was rewritten. Members became Junior members and were given the right to vote, an important liberalization. The dues of Senior members were fixed at \$8, those of Junior members at \$6, and the objectives of the Society were redefined in these few words: "Article 2. The object of this Society shall be to advance the science, practice, and standards of forestry in America." It was at this time, too, that the Hare system of proportional representation was adopted for the nomination and election of the officers and members of the Council.

That year saw another notable step, the finding by the Society of a home of its own. This occurred in April 1928, when offices were rented in the Lenox Building, 1523 L Street, N. W., in Washington, and the headquarters of the Society moved to them from the Atlantic Building.

For a long while it had been increasingly felt that the business of the Society had grown far beyond the stage where it could be handled in the spare time which could be given it by someone in the Forest Service. This was not at all a criticism of the chain of secretaries who gave yeoman service all during that earlier period. On the contrary these men are deserving of lasting praise. Under tremendous handicaps they served the Society well. But the time had come for an expansion of the administrative arm. Even if actually the of-

fice staff consisted only of a chief clerk and one assistant, the move to more spacious quarters imparted new zeal to all the officers of the Society and made them realize that now the Society was really on its own.

In the autumn of 1928 the Society was formally incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia. In 1930 the offices were moved to the Hill Building, 839 17th Street, N. W., where they remained until March 1936, when the shift was made to their present location in the Mills Building, 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.

A much more vital change was the appointment by the Council, on April 1, 1930, of an executive secretary. Suggestions to this end had been made as early as 1911 and at intervals from that time on one Council after another had wrestled earnestly with this problem. The main difficulty was lack of funds. Proposals for an increase in dues had on several occasions been vigorously resisted. And with the JOURNAL to maintain the Society had need of all its income.

A solution of the dilemma was finally reached through the raising of a special fund by contributions made by members, supplemented by two rather large gifts by friends of the Society. By November 1930 over \$18,800 had been so pledged. On an estimate that the cost of maintaining an executive secretary would be \$30,000 for three years, the Council decided to meet the difference out of Society funds.

Willard R. Hine was appointed on April 3, 1930 and at once took up active work. One evidence of his energy is that the total membership jumped from 1,740 in December 1930 to 1,922 a year later. For comparison the total in 1927 was only 1,322. Because of illness Mr. Hine was unfortunately obliged to drop out early in 1931. In April he was succeeded by Franklin W. Reed, who served the Society faithfully to February 1937.

Mention has previously been

made of the striving of the Society to draw up a statement of principles which could be adopted as constituting the standards governing Society action. After various attempts that came to nothing a large and carefully selected Policy Committee was set up in 1928, with Barrington Moore as chairman. This committee went at its task in earnest and labored manfully over a period of three years. Hearings to consider the draft of a report were held in Washington and before Sections of the Society. The pages of the JOURNAL were open wide to comments.

Finally in May 1931 the statement of the committee was adopted by a referendum vote. Ballots were cast by 839 members. Since that time the principles so enunciated have served as a guide to the Council in the conduct of the Society and in determining the editorial policies of the JOURNAL. Any such statement is, of course, subject to modification as new conditions arise, but until changed it is the tangible expression of the standards which govern this professional body. For those who may wish to reread its 31 points, a concise summary may be found in the JOURNAL for October 1934 (Vol. 32, No. 7, pp. 792-795).

As an outgrowth of this statement a number of special committees were set up in 1932 to report on ways and means of putting the principles so enunciated into actual practice. Among these were committees on Fire Control, Stabilization of the Forest Industry, Public Forests and Protection Forest Zones, Cooperation to Improve Exploitation Practices, and Public Control of Private Forest Exploitation. Their reports, submitted in 1934 and 1935, were published in the JOURNAL.

Specific mention of reports made by other committees of the parent Society, or of Sections, must be passed over except for three which cannot be omitted. The first is that of a special committee of the Washington Section, headed by Earle H. Clapp, *A National Program for Forest Research*, printed for the

Society in November 1926 through the courtesy of the American Tree Association. Appearing at just the right moment its draft of suggested federal legislation gave the push needed to motivate the campaign which resulted in the enactment by Congress in 1928 of the McNary-McSweeney Forest Research Act. This is an outstanding example where action under Society auspices played a direct and telling part in greatly expanding the scope of research in forestry.

The second is the *Cumulated Index* of the *Quarterly, Proceedings*, and *JOURNAL OF FORESTRY* to December 1929, a contribution from the Appalachian Section, made in 1930 as the result of three years of painstaking work. This index is an indispensable help to those who have occasion to make much use of the back volumes of the periodicals of the Society. The Appalachian Section later prepared an addition that brought the Index up to 1940.

It is only just to note in this connection the *Classified Index* of the Society's publications from 1901 to 1926, and of the *Forestry Quarterly*, which was compiled by the Canadian Forest Service and distributed in mimeographed form in October 1928.

The third of these committee reports stands out as an important scientific contribution, that on *Forest Cover Types of the Eastern United States*. This authoritative statement, presented at the annual meeting in 1931, represents the work of a group of silviculturists over several years, under the chairmanship of Professor R. C. Hawley. Reprinted from the *JOURNAL* it has been widely used. A third, revised edition was published in the spring of 1940.

In that year there was well under way a similar forest cover type study of the western states. In 1926 a committee of the Southern Appalachian Section had made a forest type classification for that region. This appeared in the *JOURNAL* for October 1926 (Vol. 24, No. 6, pp. 673-684).

During the administration of President Hoover there emanated

from a commission appointed by him to consider the reorganization of certain federal departments, the proposal to transfer the Forest Service from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Interior. As has been the case whenever that proposal has arisen, the Society was roused to action in opposition. In November 1930 the Council, speaking in the name of the Society, handed to President Hoover a strong statement which had been carefully prepared by a subcommittee of the Committee on Policy.

That statement indicated sharply the position taken by foresters with regard to the nature of conservation and the principles which should govern the use of both organic and inorganic resources. It was accompanied by a chart which in graphic form showed the intimate relation that forests bear to the other renewable resources. This sustained the argument that because of the inescapable interrelations between agriculture and forestry the care and management of the national forests should not be divorced from the Department of Agriculture. This statement had wide distribution and unquestionably helped to prevent the coming to a head of the proposed transfer of the Forest Service.

Again, for those who may wish to reread this statement, in connection with other policy enunciations by the Society, the citation is *JOURNAL OF FORESTRY*, December 1930 (Vol. 28, No. 8, pp. 1185-1193).

The thirtieth annual meeting, in Washington at the end of December 1930 was, as befitted that anniversary, one of more than ordinary significance. It was held at the Wardman Park Hotel, with a registration of 325 persons, which included a group of European foresters, visitors to the United States. A high spot at the "birthday dinner" was an address by Raphael Zon, "The Society Comes of Age." The total membership was 1,740 at that time.

During the years 1931 and 1932 no little aid was given by the executive secretary and other officers of

the Society to the Timber Conservation Board, a special commission of limited duration set up by President Hoover. The fact that its directors turned to the Society for assistance is another indication of the position the Society had come to fill.

In a somewhat similar way, three years later, many members of the Society took an active part in building up the program under Article X of the Lumber Code of the National Reconstruction Administration. This program was, however, for the most part prepared under other auspices than those of the Society.

After serving continuously in an editorial capacity almost from the start of the *Forestry Quarterly*, and from 1923 as editor-in-chief of the *JOURNAL OF FORESTRY*, Raphael Zon resigned in May 1928. His unique service to the Society and to the profession brought out at that time many well merited tributes on his accomplishments.

As has been said before, this is not the place to tell the story of the *JOURNAL*. But as a part of the administrative record those who served as editor from 1928 to 1942 may be here chronicled. That list is as follows: Samuel T. Dana, October 1928 to May 1930; Emanuel Fritz, October 1930 to December 1932; Franklin W. Reed, January 1933 to December 1934; Herbert A. Smith, January 1935 to March 1937; and Henry Schmitz from April 1937 to May 1942.

As a concluding item for this period mention may be made of the award of the Schlich Memorial Medal to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. After the death of Sir William Schlich in 1925 many American foresters joined with those who had been his former pupils at the University of Oxford in contributing to a memorial fund. The income from this fund is allotted in rotation over a period of years to the several dominions in the British Commonwealth and to the United States. To the Society of American Foresters is given the happy duty of determining how the allotment to the United States

shall be used for "the advancement of forestry."

In 1933 the Council, after much deliberation, decided that the most appropriate use of the initial installment would be for a medal to be presented to President Roosevelt in recognition of his interest in and support of forestry. An artistic design was approved, the medal struck, and on December 29, 1935 it was handed to the President at the White House by the three senior officers of the Society. That same year Mr. Roosevelt was elected an Honorary member of the Society.

#### The Years from 1934 to 1937

From 1934 to 1937, under the forceful personality of H. H. Chapman as president, changes were effected in the constitution that have given new purpose and direction to the Society. At long last our organization was in position to realize the intent of its founders that the Society of American Foresters become a truly professional body.

In taking office Professor Chapman announced two major objectives. Paraphrasing his words, these were to place the Society squarely on a professional basis, and, second, to organize it so that it could lend full and effective support to all measures, political, economic, and technical which after discussion and analysis appeared sound and worthy of the support of foresters.

To secure the first, demanded the clarification of the requirements and qualifications governing the several classes of membership. And this in turn required the fulfilling of the mandate carried in the constitution that the Council shall approve a list of schools of forestry that meet the standards demanded in an adequate theoretical education in the basic principles of professional forestry.

Coupled with this was the need to make the Council truly representative of the whole membership of the Society, while still keeping it a small enough body to work

efficiently. It is believed that the solution of this problem has been found by the use of the method of proportional representation.

It is not needful here to trace all the steps taken in carrying out this program, but brief comment is in order on a few points that are fundamental to the whole set-up of the Society. First, as to the manner of choosing the Council. For a long while some of the Sections and certain groups within the Society, especially some of the younger men, had felt strongly that their points of view had received inadequate attention. Some felt also that Forest Service men had a disproportionate influence, although this contention is not borne out by an unbiased examination of the record.

The feeling, rather widely current in the early thirties, that it would be better for a time to have other than federal officials in the executive offices, rested on entirely different grounds. These were that in view of certain impending trends, the Society would so be in better position to back up, and if necessary to defend the Forest Service in the case of moves to alter or upset policies which had proved their value under the tests of long trial and experience.

Proposals as to the organization of the Council had been under active discussion for several years. One, that Council members be elected by the several Sections, went to the Society on referendum and was lost. Finally the decision was reached to adopt the method of proportional representation by districts. This was approved on referendum in 1935 and became effective in January 1936. At the same time the change in term of office from a one- to a two-year term was approved for both the president and vice president, and from five to two years for the members of the Council.

The method of districting the country for the election of Council members has been in effect long enough to be well understood. On the whole it appears to be working

satisfactorily. Those who criticize it should remember that the remedy for certain of their complaints lies with themselves. All that is required to put any name on the ballot is a petition signed by ten voting members. Once in the running it depends on the electorate alone whether or not that individual is one of those chosen.

The classification of the several grades of membership in the Society was a more difficult problem. The ideal had ever been to make the Society a body representative of the profession of forestry. But in none of the revisions of the constitution had the distinction been sharply drawn between those with true professional training and those whose background consisted mainly in empirical experience. With the increasing diversity of interests included under forestry it was hard to draw the line as to whether a man was, or was not, technically a forester.

President Chapman's argument was that membership in a profession must be based on the mastery of a body of scientific knowledge, unattainable through experience alone, which requires extensive study that is best pursued at professional schools. The proposed plan made graduation from an approved school prerequisite to admission to Junior membership, and advancement to the grade of Senior member dependent on demonstrated qualifications rather than achievement. But provision was also made for Affiliate and Associate members to take care of those with other status, and for admission to the Society by special examination.

During an extended trip the president visited and discussed this matter with fourteen of the Sections, thus reaching personally some 1,200 members. Meanwhile the pages of the JOURNAL were opened wide for continued discussion. All this prepared the way for the referendum in the autumn of 1934, when Articles 3, 4, and 7 of the constitution were approved substantially in the form in which they now stand in 1950.

The final step was to define what constitutes adequate training, in other words for the Council to make a list of approved schools. To obtain the data on which to base this decision the Council had authorized the intensive study of the schools of forestry carried on from 1933 to 1935. Starting with the material already in hand in the volume *Forest Education*, by Graves and Guise, Chapman's exhaustive investigation of the schools enabled the Council to determine those to be included on the approved list. The details are to be found in his book *Professional Forestry Schools Report*, published and distributed by the Society in 1935. A series of bylaws followed to support Article 3 and 4. These may be found in *S.A.F. Affairs* for July 1938 (Vol. 4, No. 7).

Another change in the constitution made at this time was to reword Article 2, from the brief statement of 1917 to the following: "The objects of this Society shall be to represent, advance, and protect the interests and standards of the profession of forestry, to provide a medium for exchange of professional thought, and to promote the science, practice, and standards of forestry in America." [It stands unchanged in 1950.]

The fulfillment of the first clause of Article 2 constituted the second objective of President Chapman's administration. It took two forms. One was vigorous protest against political interference with forestry in certain states, and in the Civilian Conservation Corps, and against a letting down of the barriers that maintain the sanctity of the principles embodied in the Civil Service.

The other was the strenuous fight made in 1937 by the Society against the proposal to transfer the Forest Service from Agriculture to Interior which formed a part of President Roosevelt's reorganization program. Action of various sorts taken by and in the name of the Society had no small part in arousing the public opposition that finally prevailed. It is probably correct

to say that never has the Society waged so strenuous a battle.

To some extent overshadowed by more dramatic activities this period included other happenings of interest. The standing committees of the Society were revamped and given new life. That on the History of Forestry in the United States, originally set up in the twenties, again came into prominence, as well it may, for as custodian of the archives of the Society it has an important part to play. Its other functions are obvious in this Golden Anniversary Year.

To give more space to the material which properly belonged in the JOURNAL and at the same time to provide an organ for matter which concerned only the members, a new periodical, *S.A.F. Affairs*, was established in January 1935. It served a useful purpose. At the same time the JOURNAL became a monthly magazine.

At the International Forestry Congress held at Budapest in 1936 a large delegation of members of the Society was in attendance. Had it not been for the untoward events in Europe in 1939, a large number would have gone to Helsinki in 1940 for the proposed Forestry Congress, cancelled by the approach of World War II.

The appointment of Henry E. Clepper as executive secretary in May 1937 was another move toward the efficient handling of the increasing business of the Society. A concerted drive, over several years, made to enlist those eligible as Junior members, brought the membership to a total of 4,152 in December 1937.

#### 1938 - 1941

Effective January 1938 Dean Clarence F. Korstian of Duke University was elected president and two years later was again chosen for a second term, 1940-1941. With him William G. Howard of New York was vice president for the first of these terms; E. I. Kotok, then of California, for the second. The first task of the new Council

was to act on some uncompleted business from the previous administration. This included two referendums: one on Standards to Define National Parks, National Forests, and Wilderness Areas; the other on Public Acquisition of Forest Lands. These were approved and supplement earlier policy pronouncements by the Society.

The knotty question of a code of ethics for foresters, which had been before several Councils, was advanced a considerable step by the enunciation by the Council in July 1938 of two bylaws which outlined a "Preliminary Code of Ethics." [These still appear as Bylaws 23 and 24, under Unprofessional Conduct, in the Constitution as published in revised form in March 1950.] Provision for disciplinary action in case of need, goes back to the original constitution. It is a satisfaction to recall that only in a very few cases has it been necessary to invoke it. This in itself is a tribute to the character of the Society's personnel.

Both in these years and later, difficulties were experienced in the administration of the bylaws governing the election of Fellows. This led to several minor amendments to clarify this process. Under one of them nine Fellows were elected in 1939, ten in 1940.

Two things in particular marked Dean Korstian's administration: (1) the increased attention paid to closer contacts with the recognized scientific associations, and (2) the appointment of a number of new committees to study and report upon matters of professional interest. Significant of the first were the summer meetings of the Society, held in affiliation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in Denver in 1937, Ottawa, 1938, Milwaukee, 1939, Seattle, 1940, and Durham, New Hampshire in 1941. Groups of Society members were also in evidence at winter meetings of the A.A.A.S., in some cases jointly with the Ecological Society of America. Cooperation with the National Research Council and the

Union of American Biological Societies was also strengthened and extended.

(2) The names of a few of the committees active in these years indicate that the Society was at work: Accredited Schools, Civil Service, Cooperation with Scientific Organizations, Forest Type Classification, Game Management with Reference to Forestry, International Relations, Private Forestry, Forestry Terminology, Watershed Management, and Labor Relations.

In commemoration of two men who had done much for forestry in the United States, the Society was instrumental in the erection of memorial tablets to Henry E. Hardtner, an Associate member, at Urania, Louisiana, in 1938, and to Austin Cary, a Fellow of the Society, at Gainesville, Florida, in 1939.

The 39th Annual Meeting of the Society was held in San Francisco, California, November 23 to 25, 1939. The theme was "The Next Thirty Years in Forestry," which was discussed from several viewpoints. One evening program was broadcast by the National Broadcasting Company. In this President Franklin D. Roosevelt, an Honorary member of the Society—speaking from Washington—participated.

Another incident was that as a part of his address President Korstian included a concise statement in which, earlier that year, the Council had "interpreted" the objects of the Society set up in Article II of the constitution, as revised the year before. To have such enunciations on record is of help to subsequent Councils and of interest to the membership in general.

The good sized attendance at the meeting—over 400—helped to fix the policy that about every third year the annual meeting of the Society shall be held on the West Coast. A choice of interesting field trips was offered visiting foresters, including ones to the Sequoias and to the Yosemite. In December 1939

the total membership of the Society stood at 4,559; in 1940, 4,708.

The meetings of the Society held in Washington in the final year of each decade are always unusual occasions, eagerly anticipated. Of the 40th annual meeting, held at the Mayflower Hotel, December 19 to 21, 1940, this was particularly true. It fittingly climaxed the period during which the Society of American Foresters had become in fact as in name a truly national, professional organization. The subject was: "Forty Years of Forestry." In the words of the editorial in the *JOURNAL OF FORESTRY* for February 1941:

"In many respects it was the most outstanding meeting in the entire history of the Society. Never was the attendance larger (535), never the program more interesting. . . . In it were included highly controversial subjects. These were discussed on an impersonal, professional level, and as the meeting went on, it became increasingly clear that foresters in both public and private employ have no fear or even hesitancy in expressing honest opinions, honestly arrived at; that neither public agencies nor private employers were dictating what their employees should, or could say in a professional meeting of the Society; that in the United States freedom of thought and of speech is still the inalienable right of the individual."

A high light of the banquet was the presentation of the Sir William Schlich Memorial Medal to the Honorable Gifford Pinchot, first president of the Society, Fellow, "for distinguished service in the cause of American Forestry." This award, established by English and American foresters to perpetuate the memory of a great teacher of foresters, is the highest honor in the gift of the English speaking foresters of the world. That this signal recognition should have come to G.P. on this occasion was as happy an incident as the award was appropriate.

The years from 1935 to 1940 were marked by the organization

of new Sections of the Society on the West Coast, in part by rearrangement, and in 1941 in the Inland Empire. In other parts of the country Section committees were active. Some Sections, among them New England and New York, mimeograph such reports. The Appalachian Section published a guide book to places of forest interest. In parts of the South local meetings paved the way for the Chapters of later years. The campaigns for more members continued to draw into the professional fold more of those foresters eligible for Junior membership, who were not members of the Society.

On December 18 to 20, 1941—only eleven days after Pearl Harbor—the Society held its 41st annual meeting in Jacksonville, Florida in a manner which made it a success in every respect. The attendance was 350. Under a double captioned legend, "The Forestry Situation in the South" and "The Future of Southern Forestry," the meeting, said the *JOURNAL OF FORESTRY*, "reflected the tremendous progress forestry has made in the South during the past twenty years . . . surpassed, perhaps, by no other place on the North American Continent." This was made evident in the meeting itself and by what was seen on the trips on the field day.

An unusual addition to the Jacksonville meeting was the reception tendered several representatives from the Mexican Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture of Mexico—an index of closer relations in Inter-American forestry.

Further expression by foresters of friendly international feeling was afforded in July 1942 when President Schmitz, with four other members of the Society, attended the Second Inter-American Conference of Agriculture in Mexico City, and took an active part in the Forestry Section. Cordial relations were established then with foresters from a number of other Latin-American countries.

### The War Years — 1941-1945

The approach of World War II tended to throw out of gear the normal routine of the Society, as it did that of most other organizations. But thanks to the level heads of its Council and of its staff members, the essential activities of the Society were maintained. Indeed, in spite of manifold difficulties, new projects in surprising number were undertaken and carried through to successful completion.

When the JOURNAL commented, in February 1942: "The Society may be proud of its 41st meeting," no one realized that the next national meeting would not be held until September 1946; that in Salt Lake City. But such was the case, for during World War II the federal regulations to prevent all unnecessary civilian travel were strictly enforced. Because of the cancellation of the annual meetings of the Society, from 1942 to 1945 inclusive, those of the Sections came to play a larger role. Likewise the meetings of the Council took on added importance. In these war years the Council met in Jacksonville in December 1941; in St. Paul, Minnesota in May 1943 and May 1944; and in Portland, Oregon in December 1945.

In January 1942, Dean Henry Schmitz of the University of Minnesota became president for a two year term. He was re-elected and so served during all the war years. Throughout this trying period he skillfully met the current demands upon the Society, while steadfastly upholding its ideals, and maintaining its standards. In the absence of reports of annual meetings in these years, three addresses by Dean Schmitz, his reports as war time president, are well worth looking up and re-reading. The citations are JOURNAL OF FORESTRY: December 1942, Vol. 40:976-981; April 1943, Vol. 41:237-242; May 1944, Vol. 42:315-321. During both terms Professor Shirley W. Allen of Michigan served as vice president.

The first direct war time blow to the Washington office was an

urgent request in the late spring of 1942 from the War Production Board for the loan of Henry Clepper as consultant and advisor on timber and lumber products. In conformity with the position taken by President Schmitz, that "the greatest contribution any organization can make to the Nation during war is the sum total of the individual contributions made by its members," leave was granted our executive secretary to accept this assignment. He served from July 16, 1942 to December 31, 1943. In Mr. Clepper's absence Miss L. Audrey Warren and her associates of the office staff rose to still higher levels of efficiency to carry on. That they could do so much was one of the marvels in the country-wide response to the calls for war service.

With the May 1942 issue, Dean Schmitz resigned as editor of the JOURNAL OF FORESTRY, a task he had performed with outstanding ability since the spring of 1937. Dean Samuel T. Dana, who had previously served in this post from the spring of 1928 to October 1930, returned to duty as editor, and continued in office through April 1946. He brought to it intimate knowledge of the problems of the Society.

As a note of historical interest belonging to an earlier time, it is appropriate to mention here three articles by Henry Clepper on the development of the JOURNAL OF FORESTRY, which appeared in the issues of December 1941, January 1942, and May 1946 (Volumes 39, 40, and 44). These fill a gap in the first edition of this *Historical Summary of the Society*—published in the JOURNAL of November 1940—which was caused by lack of space. In these articles are named the associate editors [formerly the Editorial Board], those foresters who, with very little popular recognition, do a lot of the exacting work which makes the JOURNAL the internationally respected forestry publication which it unquestionably is.

Two special committees were set up in 1942 for war time service.

The first, a joint War Committee on Forestry, with Dean Henry S. Graves as chairman, was to cooperate with the National Research Council. Of this more anon. The other was the Committee on Manpower. Samuel T. Dana was chairman. A progress report was made in September 1943. In January 1944, Cedric H. Guise succeeded Dana. A report "Postwar Requirements for Foresters" appeared in the November 1945 JOURNAL. In 1944 Shirley W. Allen was put in charge of special studies concerning aid that could advantageously be given ex-service men after the hostilities were over.

As an outcome of the United Nations' Conference on Food and Agriculture, there was appointed, in March 1944, a Technical Subcommittee on Forestry and Primary Forest Products. Dean H. S. Graves was named chairman. A report of the committee, dated Washington, April 25, 1945, was reprinted by the Charles Lathrop Pack Forestry Foundation, for distribution. In other ways, of course, the Society lent aid in the war effort.

As regards service in the armed forces of the Nation by members of the Society, it is too soon as yet to expect even a mere enumeration. Accurately to compile such data demands expert knowledge and necessarily takes a long while. Also it is expensive. But it is to be hoped that sometime the Society may find itself in possession of a special fund with which this can be done. This need not be at once. It was not until May 1940 that Major Jno. D. Guthrie brought out his book on the Tenth Engineers (Forestry) of World War I, *The Carpathians*, a valuable historical document. That book is mentioned here, in part, for the record.

### Society Accomplishments in the War Years

*Education.*—In March 1943 appeared the second report of the Committee on Accrediting Schools of Forestry. This carried forward

the work of earlier years in the grading of the institutions teaching professional forestry—the initial results of which were set forth in the *Professional Forestry Schools Report*, published in 1935. With the aid of an allotment of \$1,000 in 1942, a careful inspection of twenty-one schools was made by, or under the direction of Professor H. H. Chapman, then as earlier, the untiring chairman of the committee.

The members of this organization are in deep debt to Chapman for his continuing vigilance to keep our Society and its feeders, the schools, on a sound professional basis. Only as it maintains that status can the Society live up to its proper responsibilities.

No reference to forestry education in the United States during the past 20 years would be complete without mention of the articles by Cedric H. Guise—16 by 1950—which annually have contributed to the record the essential statistics concerning the schools of forestry.

Two new Sections of the Society bear war time dates: Inland Empire, 1941 and Kentucky-Tennessee, 1942.

*Publications.*—Four noteworthy publications were issued under the authority of the Society during the war time period.

*The Second Cumulated Index for the Journal of Forestry: 1930-1939.* Compiled by the Appalachian Section. Late 1940.

*Forestry Terminology: a glossary of 4500 technical terms used in forestry.* 1943. This was the work of a committee with ten divisions which, under the chairmanship of Professor Ralph C. Hawley of Yale, had been on the job since 1939. It was the last word as to forestry words. In an appreciative review of *Forestry Terminology*, *The Scottish Forestry Journal* (August 1945) mentions “the happy thought of the Society of American Foresters of using part of the award from the Schlich Memorial Fund for distributing copies to forestry societies in the British Empire.” Each of the 100

copies so sent out carried an insert showing a picture of the Schlich medal.

*Handbook of Information on Entering Positions in Forestry:* By Shirley W. Allen. 1944. A professional guidance bulletin. This has had several printings.

*Forest Cover Types of Western North America.* 1945. A companion volume to that for the eastern United States, published in 1940. The chairman of the committee in charge was Professor F. S. Baker.

Although not issued by the Society itself, three other books by members deserve mention:

E. N. Munns. *Selected Bibliography of North American Forestry.* U. S. Department of Agriculture. Misc. Pub. 364, two volumes. 1940. This is the first comprehensive bibliography of American forestry ever published. It covers the period to 1930.

Tom Gill (with Ellen C. Dowling). *The Forestry Directory.* An enlarged successor to *The Forestry Almanac.* The American Tree Association. 1943. An invaluable source book of current information.

Gifford Pinchot. *Breaking New Ground.* Harcourt, Brace and Co., New York. 1947. This is G. P.'s autobiography. In it he tells his own story, in his own way, making the book an indispensable historical reference work. It should be known to every American forester.

For the record, it may further be noted that with the winding up of the Civilian Conservation Corps, in 1942, a couple of books and several articles about that enterprise appeared from the pen of Jno. D. Guthrie, who wrote of its work with authority and understanding.

From time to time books, bulletins, and reports appear from the different Sections. These cannot be listed here, but many rank as worthy contributions to Society literature. News letters, usually issued at quarterly intervals, are published by many of the Sections. The first, the *News Quarterly* of the New England Section, dates from 1939.

*Sections Make Practice Rules.*—All through the war years there was in evidence a strong undercurrent of conflicting opinion among foresters concerning the controversial question of the regulation of privately owned forest lands. With each annual report the Washington Office of the U. S. Forest Service became increasingly insistent on ultimate federal control. In the *JOURNAL* there were many articles and letters on this subject, both pro and con.

In December 1940 the Council adopted a statement on public regulation of which the two essential paragraphs read as follows: “We endorse in principle public regulation to the extent necessary in each local situation to prevent destruction of forests and to keep forest lands reasonably productive. . . . We believe that public regulation should be founded upon an educational approach and constructive cooperation between public agencies and land owners.”

This statement was reaffirmed by the Council at its meeting in St. Paul, in May 1943 (*Jour. Forestry* 41:541). And in October 1944 was approved by the Society on referendum: 1495 yes, 275 no. (*Jour. Forestry* 42:934.)

At that same meeting the Council urged each Section to formulate “specific rules of practice for the forest types of its region.” This led to action by a number of the Sections, as was reported during 1944 and 1945. The studies on which the resulting statements rest are true professional contributions.

#### Postwar Years — Mostly Concerning 1945-1946

Even before the cessation of active hostilities in World War II, the Society began to resume its normal functions. Upon request of President Schmitz, Henry Clepper was recalled from his war time service with the War Production Board, on January 1, 1944. With his return various activities were restored and new ones added. Thus, in 1944, for the first time, membership cards were distributed to all members in good standing. As



giving the bearer status as a forester, they have proved helpful to many members, particularly those in private work. Certificates for Members, suitable for framing, are also available to those desiring them.

In May 1944, a second subject matter Division, Silviculture, was approved by the Council. During 1945 its officers made contact with all the Sections. In February 1945 a conference of forestry school executives was held in Ann Arbor, with 24 schools represented.

In the editorial in the February 1945 JOURNAL, Dana paid a well deserved tribute to the Forest Service on its fortieth anniversary. For February 1, 1905 was the day when the former Bureau of Forestry became the Forest Service and took over the management of some 63 million acres of public lands. Notwithstanding occasional family differences within the profession, the Society was, and is, glad to honor the men and their successors who first demonstrated, and have since maintained "the practicability of efficient management of the National Forests with such conspicuous success."

It was also in February 1945 that the welcome addition to the JOURNAL, "We Present," had its start; that special department where each month appear biographical sketches of interesting persons in the field of forestry.

Although in an article of this length only a few individuals may be mentioned, everyone will agree with me that it is only proper to recall that the August 1945 issue of the JOURNAL paid special tribute to Gifford Pinchot by giving him acclaim on his eightieth birthday; August 11, 1945. When the news of his death, on October 4, 1946, was announced, it marked the end of a notable and unique period of forestry in America.

Two other charter members of the Society have died during the last decade: Thomas Herrick Sherrard, U. S. Forest Service, Portland, Oregon, on January 21, 1941 and Edward Tyson Allen, on May 27, 1942. In honor of the former,

a pinnacle of Larch Mountain in the Mount Hood National Forest, has been named "Sherrard Point."

Of Ned Allen's varied and highly significant contributions to American forestry, a comprehensive account may be found in a book by Mrs. Eloise Hamilton, published in 1949 by the Western Forestry and Conservation Association, Portland, Oregon, under the title, *Forty Years of Western Forestry*. Allen was one of the truly great American foresters of the past half century.

Three more Divisions of the Society were approved by the Council in 1945: Forest-Wildlife Management in the spring, Forest Recreation in October, and Forest Economics in December.

As a joint project, the Society associated with the Charles Lathrop Pack Forestry Foundation in "a study of state forestry organizations to define and establish standards necessary for the efficient administration of the forest resources within a state." In all, surveys were conducted in nine states, at the invitation of their governors. The work started in 1944 and terminated in 1947. The total appropriation made by the Pack Foundation to the Society was \$35,000. It is possible that this project may lead later to a study of public administration of forestry at the state level, as producing a sort of "master plan" for state forestry.

In the election in December 1945, Shirley W. Allen of Michigan and Clyde S. Martin of Tacoma, Washington were chosen president and vice president of the Society for the biennium 1946-1947. Visits to Section meetings and correspondence with Section officials by both these officers was one characteristic of this administration.

On May 1, 1946 Samuel T. Dana resigned as editor of the JOURNAL, to be succeeded by Dr. Hardy L. Shirley of the New York State College of Forestry. This date also marks the setting up of the independent monthly magazine *Forestry News*, designed for, and mailed only to members of the So-

ciety, to carry notes and items less formal in character than those in the JOURNAL. Of this the executive secretaries acted as the editorial staff. In February 1948, in part because of expense, *Forestry News* was combined with the JOURNAL. It is a source of useful information and meets a genuine need.

Beginning in 1946 the Society started to maintain a list of foresters engaged in private consulting practice. Originally with about 50 names, the list has grown, with repeated, occasional publications, until now (in 1950) it contains more than 150.

In a service to all members, the Committee on the Library of Congress Photograph Collection—sometimes called the "Pinchot Collection of foresters' photographs"—has, during the past five years been assembling photographs, with accompanying brief notes, of as many American foresters as possible. This it does both directly from individuals, and by cooperating with subcommittees in the several Sections. Over 1000 photographs are now on file in the Library of Congress. Because of the historical importance and value of this project, all members of the Society are urged to lend it their aid and encouragement.

Three more awards of the Schlich Memorial Medal were made during the middle years of the 1940's; each to a forester with a distinguished record of service to forestry. The first was to Dr. Henry S. Graves, dean emeritus of the School of Forestry, Yale University; chief of the U. S. Forest Service, 1910 to 1920; past president, Fellow. The place and date; a meeting of the Washington Section of the Society, at the Cosmos Club in Washington, D. C., on August 1, 1944.

The second was to Colonel William B. Greeley, chairman of the Board of Trustees, American Forest Products Industries, Inc., Washington, D. C.; chief of the Forest Service, 1920 to 1928; past president, Fellow; at the annual meeting at Salt Lake City on September 12, 1946.

And the third to Dr. Herman H. Chapman, professor of forest management emeritus, Yale University; Fellow, past president of the Society; chairman of the Committee on Accrediting Schools of Forestry, 1933 to 1947. At the 48th annual meeting of the Society, in Boston, December 17, 1948.

During the 1940's several elections conferred on certain members the honorary grade of Fellow, as follows: In 1942, ten; in 1944, three; in 1946, ten.

Following a suggestion made in 1944 by Samuel T. Dana, then editor of the *JOURNAL*, the Council set up a committee to award a prize of \$100 for the best article appearing in the *JOURNAL OF FORESTRY* for that year. The award was made to Gustav A. Pearson, for one by him on "Cutting Cycles in Ponderosa Pine," in the issue for August 1944.

No award was made in 1945 but, with different committees, three more were granted. In 1946 to Emanuel Fritz: "A Proposal for Reorganizing and Realignment Federal Forest, Forage, Park, and Game Lands"; April 1946. In 1947 to A. C. Hull, Jr. and Joseph F. Pechanec: "Cheatgrass—A Challenge to Ranch Research"; August 1947. And in 1948 to the late Louis S. Murphy (a posthumous award): "State Versus Federal Competence"; January 1948. This activity of the Society was terminated that year.

In 1945 was established the convenient department of the *JOURNAL*, *Current Literature*, compiled by Miss Martha Meelig, librarian of the New York State College of Forestry. Later was added the Range Management Section, by Miss Frances Flick, Library, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

*Resumption of Annual Meetings.*—On September 10 to 14, 1946 was held in Salt Lake City, Utah the first national forestry gathering since December 1941. It tingled with pent-up enthusiasm, in part because it was a new type of Society meeting. It was the first op-

portunity for the (then) eight subject Divisions of the Society to hold meetings—and what was more important, individual meetings—of each division. With the exception of the Division of Education, all had been formed since the 1941 meeting. Four of these have been named above. The other three, approved in 1946, were Private Management, Range Management, and Forest Products. The theme might well have been "Multiple Use." That for the open meetings was, instead, "Land Use in the Inland Western Mountain Region."

The success of these division meetings marked a definite trend for the future—the trend toward centering a full day or more on the technical fields represented by the divisions, with consequent reduction in the time allotted to general sessions.

Some of the old-timers tried—for a while—to jump from one division meeting to another, in the almost vain attempt to hear individual papers in each. But the younger members, each loyal to his own division, seemed fully content with the extra time gained for that particular subject.

In his address, President Allen called attention to the problem, as he called it, of the "double load," as had his predecessor Dean Schmitz in 1942, and the secretary of the Society, Henry Clepper, more than once, namely the fact that of the estimated number of practicing foresters in the United States (then about 9000), not more than half belong to the Society. Would those foresters who seem willing to benefit by the activities of the Society, while avoiding their responsibilities, but join and take their proper parts, not only would the burden on present members be eased, but the Society could do much more to develop the profession.

The meeting at Salt Lake City was the first annual meeting at which there had been present representatives from each of the 21 Sections of the Society; a fact that in itself is worthy of recording. A novel field trip included ex-

amples of outstanding flood control, and a demonstration of Forest Service "smoke jumping."

A month later, in Washington, D. C., many members of the Society were in attendance at the American Forest Congress, a culmination of the Forest Resources Appraisal which the American Forestry Association had been conducting during the years 1944 to 1946. In April 1947, at a meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan, this statement was issued: "The Council supports the Forestry Program of the American Forestry Association without committing itself as to all details . . . and assures hearty cooperation in making the program effective."

The year 1949 witnessed—to quote Tom Gill—"unusual activity in the international forestry field." The most important, indeed of the past decade, was the Third World Forestry Congress, held in Helsinki, Finland, July 10-19. First set for 1940, it was postponed because of World War II. It followed the Congress in Rome in 1926 and in Budapest in 1936, referred to above. Over 500 members attended. The delegation from the United States, with C. M. Granger as chairman, numbered 34, of whom 19 were Society members. Many American foresters know the president, Dr. Eino Saari of Finland, because of his several visits to this country. He arranged and directed the Congress with great skill and high ability. It was a truly noteworthy occasion.

In February 1949 H. H. Chapman was the Society's delegate at the seventh Pacific Science Congress in New Zealand. In May 1949 Tom Gill attended, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the first meeting of the Latin American Commission for Forestry and Forest Products of the F.A.O.

At the U. N. Meeting at Lake Success, New York, August 17 to September 6, 1949 Henry Clepper was the Society's official delegate at the United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources. Fifty other American foresters also at-

tended, a number as speakers.

With the April 1949 JOURNAL, Dr. Hardy L. Shirley resigned as editor-in-chief, having given to this office three years of service of the same able and distinguished type as has characterized all our volunteer editors. Until another editor could be obtained the executive secretary took over for the time being, as well as continuing as managing editor, assisted by Miss Warren, business manager. In May 1948 Robert D. Hostetter was appointed assistant executive secretary. He took the position held from October 1945 to August 1947 by Jack J. McNutt. Mr. Hostetter works especially with the Sections; in rendering service to members; in public relations; and, since January 1950, as compiler of *Society Affairs*.

### Happenings in Recent Years

The progress of the Society has been characterized by a number of happenings which taken together are the best sort of evidence that as it nears its fiftieth birthday the Society of American Foresters does so with full vitality and renewed vision.

Outstanding among these are four points: I. The several official steps taken by the members, through votes on referendums and amendments to the constitution (1) to raise the dues and so put the affairs of the Society on a sound financial basis; (2) to adopt a Code of Ethics, and thereby reaffirm and expand the professional ideals of American forestry; and (3) to redefine the majority opinion of the members on several important questions of policy.

II. The upsurge of new life and spirit which has found expression in the creation of Chapters in so many of the Sections—a movement in which, most significantly, the younger members have taken the predominant part.

III. Three annual meetings, largely attended and enthusiastically carried out, at which the cus-

tom of having individual, day-long sessions of the divisions seems to have been established.

IV. The publication of several important contributions, and the authorization of other books and manuals of unusual significance to foresters.

And all these things followed close on the excellent record set by the Society during the years of World War II, and the reorganization of its salaried staff which gives the JOURNAL a paid editor and adds an assistant executive secretary.

Let us glance at certain of these items, so that we may be aware of the present status of our Society when we come together in December 1950, in Washington, to develop the plans that shall lead us into the decades of service which lie in the future of the Society.

*I. Referendums and Amendments.* Those who may wish to check up on the amendments and new by-laws of recent years should consult the revised editions of the constitution published as extra parts of the issues of the JOURNAL OF FORESTRY of March 1945 and March 1950 (Vols. 43 and 48); with an earlier revision in *S.A.F. Affairs* of July 1938 (Vol. 4, No. 7). The story of these various changes is a long one. But it is full of interest in that it tells how after extended and thoughtful consideration a strong majority of Society members finally voted to take the steps necessary to meet vital needs of this, their own professional organization. As Bill Greeley once said, back in 1939, the way "is simply that we meet the problems and make the changes in the spirit and with the methods of democracy."

The following note is of special interest to older Fellows and Members, now retired from active forestry practice, after 20 years or more of membership. By an amendment to Article V, Section 4 such members were granted the privilege of continuing full membership without dues. In Decem-

ber 1947 other important changes in the constitution were also made by vote of the membership. And on a referendum the members, by a large majority, adopted a policy on multiple use of forest land.

Without any question the most far reaching changes were those effected by the votes cast as of November 13, 1948; the adoption of the first Code of Ethics for the forestry profession in America, and the increases in dues for all grades of voting members. At that time, top, the grade of Senior Member became Member.

The need for a Code of Ethics had been under discussion for many years. That adopted was the result of two years of work by a committee of which Julius Kahn of New York was chairman, a forester who also has had the advantage of legal training. Although subject to restatement as the years go by, as all such affirmations must be, the Code of Ethics is a long step forward. Further, it paves the way—impossible without a code—for state legislation for the licensing of foresters under professional standards, a procedure that has been found desirable by most of the other recognized professions. The definition of the term "unprofessional conduct," in 1947, naturally ties in with the Code of Ethics.

By referendum vote of the membership in September 1949, Society opposition was expressed to the proposed transfer, by Congressional action, of some 462,000 acres of national forest in Oregon administered by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; the "O and C and lands."

On December 10, 1949, a proposal to liberalize the professional base of Junior membership, by admitting qualified graduates in range management, wildlife management, and other land management fields on the same basis as graduate foresters, was defeated: no, 2036; yes, 1506.

On the same day an amendment to the constitution (VII, 3) was approved, whereby any action of the Council may be brought before the Society at large on petition of 250 voting members: yes, 2797; no, 622.

After long and at times heated discussion in the JOURNAL, and the refusal by the group introducing it to accept a suggestion of the Council that it modify the wording of the question, a referendum was voted on by the Society, on May 26, 1950, on this specific question: "Shall the Society of American Foresters through its Council favor or oppose the principle of federal regulation of private forests; and federal legislation looking to the establishment of this principle?" The vote was: to oppose, 2545; to favor, 1107. This total number came to about 60 percent of those eligible to vote. As is clear from its wording, this vote dealt strictly with *federal* regulation. The problem involved goes back to the controversy of the early 1920's. In no previous referendum had the question been stated as precisely. The majority of well over 2 to 1 in opposition is therefore significant.

*II. Chapters.*—The creation of new Chapters is going on at such a rapid pace that the list lengthens from month to month. That carried in the JOURNAL for June 1950 (page 446-447) was the latest then available. It shows 61. This new development of the Society is one most cordially to be welcomed. It is the third big step ahead in the last few years.

*III. The Last Three Annual Meetings.*—The annual meeting for 1947 was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, December 17 to 20. It was the second meeting at which individual sessions of the eight divisions occupied one whole day. At the general session the theme was "Progress of Private Forestry in the Lake States." This was the first meeting where officers of the 21 Sections met with the Council for an official annual conference; a move for which several Councils

had worked hard.

On December 17-18, 1947, the Council went on record as recommending against the establishment of new schools for professional training in forestry. This was a most important action for it probably helped prevent the establishment of several new schools, without proper staff or budget, following the war. In his address, President Allen reminded his hearers that seven objectives of the Society, put up as targets in 1946, were still the professional aims. Over 400 were in attendance. The total membership in December 1947 was reported as 5702.

Another election, in December 1947, brought into office as president for the next two years, 1948 and 1949, Clyde S. Martin of Tacoma, Washington, forester of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company—the first representative of a forest industry to hold this office. With him, as vice president, was Charles F. Evans of the U. S. Forest Service, Southern Region, Atlanta, Georgia. By much travel enroute to Section meetings, and by correspondence with Section officials, President Martin actively followed up similar efforts by his predecessor, Shirley W. Allen, "to make available to the Council the opinions and thinking of a real majority of our members."

The 48th annual meeting, held in Boston, Massachusetts, December 16 to 18, 1948 had a number of unusual features. On the second day, December 17, came an open meeting with the theme, "The Golden Anniversary of Professional Forestry Education in America, 1898-1948." Papers were read which dealt with the establishment of the first schools of forestry—Cornell, Biltmore, and Yale. The nine subject matter divisions—including Public Relations, organized in June 1948—each held its own session, on the same day, thus fixing firmly the custom inaugurated two years before at Salt Lake City. The attendance was excellent, over 600; the interest active and sustained. At the banquet, H. H.

Chapman was awarded the Schlich Memorial Medal, as has already been noted, and Miss L. Audrey Warren was happily surprised by the presentation to her of a setting of silver ware, "in recognition of her twenty years of loyalty and service." The executive officers of the 22 approved schools of forestry got together for a meeting, and one evening the consulting foresters conferred informally—the first time such a gathering had occurred.

In his address, President Martin traced the growth of the Society from the evening at Gifford Pinchot's home in Washington, in March 1903, when President Theodore Roosevelt gave a talk to the then infant Society. He expressed his belief that the recent development of local Chapters in the various Sections was a new index of the vitality inherent in the membership of our Society.

The 49th annual meeting was held in Seattle, Washington, October 10-15, 1949, with an attendance of over 800 persons. The theme was "Forestry in the Pacific Northwest." The president of the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers, Mr. Eric Druce, and Dr. Florencio Tamesis, director of forestry of the Philippine Republic, with several more foresters from other countries, were in attendance.

On October 15, 1949, following the regular meeting, came the dedication of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, with speeches, among others, by Lyle F. Watts, chief of the Forest Service, Clyde S. Martin, President of the Society, and Mrs. Gifford Pinchot.

In 1948, eleven Fellows were elected and, as it happened, the same number was so honored at the election in December 1949.

*IV. Publications.*—The years 1947 to 1949 saw the appearance of a number of publications on the part of the Society. One, in 1947, was a book with the title *Problems and Progress of Forestry in the United States*. It was the report of the joint committee, mentioned earlier,

of the Society and the National Research Council, under the chairmanship of Dean Emeritus Henry S. Graves. The price is \$1.75. The major cost of this study was met by a gift of \$2,500 to the Council of the Society from the General Education Board.

Following both the Minneapolis and the Boston meetings, the Society issued *Proceedings*. These appeared in the early summers of 1948 and 1949.

A revised edition of Shirley W. Allen's *Handbook of Information on Entering Positions in Forestry* came out in 1949 (25 cents), as did the helpful 4-page brochure *The Society of American Foresters: What it is and what it does* (free).

After much careful work by the executive staff, a comprehensive loose-leaf volume entitled "Section Manual" was compiled, and in January 1950 distributed to Section officers by the assistant executive secretary, Robert D. Hostetter. It will be a most welcome aid to many Section officials who have occasion to turn quickly to it for all sorts of information about the Society. A feature is a list of reports and papers by Sections. This is an excellent example of one of the many ways in which the Society office stands behind the Sections.

Authorized by the Council in 1949 and now in preparation are several books and reports that will make available to the members of the Society, and to others, material that is of interest in a number of ways. *Fifty Years of Forestry in the U. S. A.* will appear in 1950. Nineteen authors, each writing a chapter, unite under the direction of the Committee on History of Forestry to tell the story of the period covered by the life of the Society.

Another new publication, the first *Foresters' Field Manual*, has for some time been in progress, under the supervision of an editorial committee and 19 subject-matter committees. Plans call for its publication by a commercial publishing house in 1951. It will

fill a long existing want by foresters.

A new *Directory* was issued in August 1950, the last edition having been in 1939 (*S.A.F. Affairs*, Vol. 5, No. 7).

Further Society publications already out, or in preparation, are: (1) a revised edition of *Forestry Terminology*, (1943), the first edition of which was exhausted. [This was put on sale in May 1950, at \$3.00 postpaid.] (2) The two forest cover types reports—of eastern United States, and of western North America—are being revised, and combined, to be issued as one publication. (3) A report on research techniques in forest economics, a joint product of a Committee of the Division of Forest Economics of the Society and the Charles Lathrop Pack Forestry Foundation. And (4) a report on *Grade Standards for Forest Planting Stock*, by a special Society committee.

Distinctive forestry contributions by several of the Sections are now available and more are in prospect. One—almost indispensable to all who have occasion to refer to the files of the JOURNAL—will be the *Third Cumulated Index, 1940-1949*. This will appear in 1951. Like the earlier numbers, it is the work of a Committee of the Appalachian Section.

With the February 1950 issue of the JOURNAL OF FORESTRY, Albert G. Hall took his place as the paid editor of Society publications, effective January 2, 1950. This is the fulfillment of a cherished dream that goes back many years. The Society has been extraordinarily fortunate in having had the services of the long line of voluntary editors who have served so efficiently. But now the growth of the Society and its expanding duties demand a full time editor, a forester with professional training in editorial work.

Charles F. Evans of the U. S. Forest Service in Atlanta, Georgia, was advanced from vice president to president, for the years 1950-51. He has had varied Society experience as chairman of three Sections

—Appalachian, Gulf States, and Southeastern—and as a member of the Council for the past eight years. Mr. Evans retired from the Forest Service on March 31, 1950.

Clarence S. Herr, of the Brown Company, Berlin, New Hampshire, is the second industrial forester to be elected a vice president. He also has just completed two terms as a member of the Council. The Society is in good hands for its semi-centennial year.

### Summary

And so we come to the fiftieth birthday of the Society. From 1900, when the seven charter members held the initial meeting in Washington, it is a far cry to the well organized body of today, with a total membership of 6,899 (as of September, 1950), distributed in twenty-one Sections, from coast to coast, and by no means forgetting those members who reside in Canada.

It is, however, not increase in numbers but what the Society has done which counts. Through the passing years new trails have been blazed, following which new roads have been opened. Many were the times when the advances made seemed slow and uncertain. But as one studies the half century record it is evident that progress has been steady, and today we can see that many of the accomplishments were indeed truly significant.

Let us summarize a few of the things which stand to the credit of the Society; things which could have been brought to fruition only by a society of professional foresters.

*First.*—In its organization the Society of American Foresters achieved years ago the position visioned by its founders. Today the Society is everywhere recognized as the national body which represents the profession of forestry in the United States, and as such is acknowledged as its spokesman. It was no easy task to put the Society squarely on the basis which demands professional training as the prerequisite for membership. But

that advance was finally won. Now the Society has endorsed a Foresters' Code of Ethics, which formulates certain canons as guiding principles of professional conduct. Because of these steps, forestry has taken its place among the other accredited professions.

*Second.*—Because of this position, the Society can bring the weight of its influence effectively to bear to support the principles for which the Society stands, or to oppose tendencies which a majority of its members deem detrimental to the public interest. That the Society is prepared, and stands ready to defend and to fight for the things in which it believes, is evident from the record. Herein lie some of its notable accomplishments.

*Third.*—The Society as it reaches full maturity was never more active, nor its members more loyal. This is evidenced by the rise and rapid spread, in the last few years, of Chapters in most of the Sections; a move which springs from, and is primarily the expression of, the younger members. So, too, do the new Divisions signify re-awakened interest in the diversified approaches that come together under the broad name forestry. And certainly never before has the Society office been in better position to be of so much personal service to members.

The Society has weathered two world wars. And since its recent financial reorganization — made willingly by a strong majority of its membership—its affairs are now on a stable basis. The Society is ready to handle the problems that lie close ahead. Nor does it fear to meet and solve others, as they in their turn arise.

*Fourth.*—Achievements. As we look back over the decades, the list of what are justly to be termed major accomplishments by the Society continues steadily to lengthen. As stated by Article II of the constitution, the second main object of the Society is "to provide a medium for exchange of professional thought." This has been increasingly done, in four principal ways: (1) through its meetings, including both those of the parent Society and of each of the 21 Sections; (2) by the JOURNAL OF FORESTRY, including its important departments, and—for what they tell of the Society and the activities of its members—*Society Affairs* and now also *Forestry News*; (3) by other publications of the Society, such for example—to name only three—as *Forestry Terminology*, *Forest Cover Types*, and *The Foresters' Field Manual*; and (4) by the work of its committees, such, among many others, as those which secured the Forest Education Inquiry, 1929 to 1932; or that of the

Washington Section, in 1926, which led to the speedy passage by Congress of the Forest Research Act of 1928; or the activities of its "representatives," who, through the years, have maintained the close personal touch and contacts with the leading scientific associations of the Nation, which have led to so much helpful cooperation.

*Fifth.*, and deserving of special comment, is the stabilization of academic education in professional forestry, particularly as achieved by the Committee on Accrediting Schools of Forestry. That work has had a profound influence on setting the standards of all the accredited schools of forestry in America, and through them on the Society itself. For on the stability, and on the standards maintained by the schools, depends in turn the continuing integrity of the profession.

Fifty years is but a short span in the life of a profession. In that time the Society has come a long way. It has shown that it can meet and solve difficult problems. It has held fast to its ideals. It is now established on a firm foundation as a truly professional body. Its steadily growing membership is united and loyal. With renewed faith in the objects for which it stands the Society of American Foresters faces the future with confidence and determination.



## Fifty Years of Forestry in the U. S. A.

Edited by Robert K. Winters, chairman of the Society's Committee on History of Forestry, the book, *Fifty Years of Forestry, in the U. S. A.*, will be available in time for sales at the Golden Anniversary Meeting, or earlier.

Nineteen authors, each chosen for his knowledge of the particular field, have contributed chapters on the first half century, forest protection, silviculture, forest man-

agement, forest utilization, range management, forest wildlife management, forest influences, the U. S. Forest Service, the U. S. Department of the Interior, other federal agencies, state forestry, industrial forestry, farm forestry, the Society of American Foresters, citizen and trade associations dealing with forestry, education in professional forestry, forest research, and American and world forestry.