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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

ANNUAL REPORT OF

THE IMPERIAL FORESTRY INSTITUTE

[First] for the Academic Year 1924-5.

Constitution and Staff.

The Imperial Forestry Institute, created as a result of the recommendations of the British Empire Forestry Conferences of 1920 and 1923 and the Interdepartmental Committee on Imperial Forestry Education (1921), started work in October 1924, and this Report deals with the first year of its existence. The staff, which is not yet complete, is at present constituted as follows:

Director.

Professor R. S. TROUP, C.I.E., M.A., D.Sc. (Oxon.).

Lecturers and Demonstrators.

- Silviculture THE DIRECTOR.
H. M. STEVEN, B.Sc., Ph.D. (Edin.), Hon. M.A. (Oxon.), Forestry Commission Research Officer attached to Institute.
- Forest Management . . R. BOURNE, M.A. (Oxon.).
- Economics of Forestry . W. E. HILEY, M.A. (Oxon.).
- Mycology W. R. DAY, B.Sc., M.A. (Oxon.).
- Structure and Properties of Wood. C. C. FORSAITH, Ph.D. (Syracuse, U.S.A.).
L. CHALK, B.A. (Oxon.).
- Entomology J. W. MUNRO, D.Sc. (Edin.), Hon. M.A. (Oxon.), Entomologist, Forestry Commission, attached to Institute.
R. N. CHRYSAL, B.Sc. (Edin.).
- Forest Botany . . . J. BURTT DAVY, Ph.D. (Cantab.).
- Surveying & Engineering N. F. MACKENZIE, Hon. M.A. (Oxon.).
- Forest Law H. S. WILLIAMSON, M.A. (Oxon.).
- Secretary P. S. SPOKES, B.Sc., M.A. (Oxon.).
- Assistant Secretary . Miss K. M. L. SIMPSON, M.A. (Cantab.).



Mr. H. G. Champion, M.A. (Oxon.), was appointed Lecturer in Silviculture, but did not take up the post; he was engaged temporarily during the Hilary and Trinity Terms in teaching Systematic Botany pending the arrival of Dr. J. Burt Davy, who took up his duties at the end of the year. This subject was taught during the Michaelmas Term by Mr. C. E. C. Fischer. Lecturers in Silviculture, Forest Utilization, and Soils remain to be appointed.

Buildings.

The work of the Institute was carried on, as a temporary measure, in the School of Forestry; an extension for immediate needs, in the shape of a laboratory and five working rooms, was completed towards the end of the year. The erection of suitable buildings on a new site is a matter of urgency, since the present accommodation is inadequate and the development of the Institute is hampered in consequence: this matter is receiving attention.

Students.

The number of students attending courses of study for the whole year or for shorter periods was 22, as follows:—

Post-graduate probationers:	
Great Britain	1
Colonial Services	10
Forest officers on leave:	
Colonial Services	7
India.	1
Students doing special work in the structure and properties of wood	
	3

22

Courses of Study.

These were adapted to the needs of each student. The probationer for Great Britain specialized in forest management, including working plans and silvicultural systems. Probationers for, and officers on leave from, the Colonial Services received

instruction of a general or special kind according to requirements, stress being laid on subjects likely to be of direct use to them in their respective Colonies, including tropical systematic botany and silviculture, structure and properties of wood, the utilization of tropical forest products, and other subjects; more general subjects, such as surveying and engineering, forest management, &c., were dealt with according to the exigencies of each case.

A special feature of the training was the practical instruction given on the Continent for the purpose of studying the latest developments in silvicultural systems, forest management, and exploitation: during the Easter and Summer vacations the Director had charge of parties in France, Germany, Czecho-Slovakia, and Austria, and Mr. R. Bourne conducted similar tours in France and Switzerland. A gratifying feature of these tours was the cordial co-operation of the forest officers concerned.

Some of the Colonial Service students underwent a short course of instruction in systematic botany at Kew, and special thanks are due to the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens for providing facilities in this respect. The three students undergoing training in the structure and properties of wood worked under the guidance of Dr. Forsaith.

Research.

The staff of the Institute was fully occupied during the year in the work of arranging and giving courses of instruction, purchasing equipment, preparing material, and other preliminary duties, and had no opportunity for undertaking research work. The question of prosecuting research will not be lost sight of when the Institute is in full running order.

Museum and other Collections.

A large number of specimens of timber and other forest products from Great Britain, the Dominions, the non-self-governing Dependencies, and India are being received, chiefly from the exhibits of the British Empire Exhibition, Wembley. These, which will be referred to in more detail in next year's

Report, will form a valuable nucleus for a more complete collection of forest products.

Herbarium specimens, for the most part gifts, have been received from various sources:

Bolus Herbarium, University of Cape Town. A parcel of specimens received from the Curator.

Burma Forest School. The bulk of the Herbarium Collection consists of specimens from this school.

Budlong, Miss. Specimens of trees from the Coast Range mountains of California.

Burt Davy, Dr. 235 specimens collected in Canada and the United States, and 39 specimens of British plants.

Darker, Mrs. 300 Himalayan plants.

Hiley, W. E., Esq. 16 specimens from Canada.

Kew, The Director, Royal Botanic Gardens. Duplicates from the Stolz East African Collection, and 400 specimens of Javanese plants.

Madras Forest College. A small collection.

Yale Forest School, by Professor Record. A parcel of tropical American trees.

The best thanks of the Institute are due to the donors of these collections. The number of specimens and the composition of the collection are at present inadequate, but further collections of specimens have been promised from various sources, and it is hoped that the difficulties felt during the past year, owing to the lack of material, will soon be at an end.

Financial.

The accounts of the Institute will be published separately in the *Oxford University Gazette*.

R. S. TROUP,

Director, Imperial Forestry Institute.

9 December, 1925.

Approved and adopted by the Board of Governors of the Imperial Forestry Institute.

CLINTON,

Chairman.

9 December, 1925.